

STAR WARS - EPISODE VII

THE SINISTER CONQUEST

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A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away....

EPISODE VII
THE SINISTER CONQUEST

Chaos and war engulf the fledgling NEW REPUBLIC. The quarrelsome Senate struggles to counter the tyranny of the YUUZHAN VONG, a slave-trading criminal enterprise from another galaxy.

At the mercy of these malicious forces, LOTHAL has sent delegates to CHANCELLOR LEIA ORGANA, hopeful she will direct the military to deal with the vile invaders.

Meanwhile, the legendary warrior LUKE SKYWALKER completes the training of his youngest apprentice as a mysterious enemy and an unlikely ally will soon emerge from the shadows....

FALL TO:

EXT. - CORUSCANT - SPACE

A tapestry of stars, reaching beyond all we know.

The edge of the city planet emerges from the low right. A team of cruisers streams in. An operator at the front cruiser is told by New Republic (N.R) personnel to land.

A patina of sunlight graces the outer shell of the leading ship as it punctures the ozone. The tallest skyscrapers are at their elevation.

INT. - LOTHAL CRUISER I

The occupants hail from Lothal, a world of resource-rich plains and freedom-loving people. GOVERNOR MALAGAR, who rules Lothal, brings with him ZALAGO, a young boy, and his mother.

On the intercom, the pilot is given instructions.

LANDING COORDINATOR

State your clearance code for
identification.

OPERATOR

Dignitary 68227. Requesting executive
docking.

LANDING COORDINATOR

Roger. Straight ahead.

An escort party of four X-wings can barely be seen in the clouds.

EXT. - CORUSCANT - DAY

As the atmosphere is breached, the bustle of the urban core is in view. Countless species of commuters go about their daily tasks, adjacent to the hallowed SENATE BUILDING. The historic Alliance standard waves in the breeze.

Maneuvering the traffic, the delegation is on the Chancellor's platform with a legion of service droids.

INT. - LOTHAL CRUISER I

Powering down, the pilot turns to his superior, Governor Malagar. The mother cradles her son as they move to disembark.

EXT. - CHANCELLERY PAD - DAY

An assistant for the Chancellor, URI, approaches the diplomats in what blends of homely condescension.

URI
Governor. It's a pleasure...

MALAGAR
(indelicately)
I'm here to speak with the Chancellor.

URI
She'll be with us shortly. Can I...

MALAGAR
No.

The Chancellor of the NEW REPUBLIC, LEIA ORGANA, strides onto the platform. The two leaders look upon each other as dear allies of yesteryear.

MALAGAR (CONT'D)
Leia! I mean...Chancellor Organa.

Leia smiles accordingly, departing from Uri as she speaks with Malagar privately. His antsy assistant interjects.

MALAGAR'S ASSISTANT
Respectfully, Governor. There's little time and much to discuss.

MALAGAR
(to LEIA)
We should head inside.

LEIA
This way, Governor.

The party walks with them into the Chancellor office through twin sliding doors. SHHHWWWOOM!

The topic of their summit will be one of enormous importance, evidenced by the eerie coldness in the boy's stride.

INT. - CHANCELLOR OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

As Leia plays host, Zalago and his mother join the entourage in the background. Malagar and his assistant are seated.

A hologram projector is unpacked from their luggage and set

on the desk in a hurry. But the Governor is more casual.

MALAGAR

How long has it been, since we were in this room, celebrating the rebirth of freedom in the New Republic?

LEIA

A lifetime, Governor. So, what's happened?

MALAGAR

I'm afraid it *is* dire, Chancellor. We have been invaded by the Yuuzhan Vong syndicate.

Blue images spring up as a visual descriptor. An insignia (crescent and sickle), a labor camp with slaves in orange attire, and the Vong's crude alien faces, which have ridge-like foreheads, are humanoid but are scarred and disfigured.

MALAGAR'S ASSISTANT

They've established a slave colony, largest of its kind. Valuable mineral caches are shipped out to the highest bidder. They demand that we submit.

Though invested in this dilemma as an empathetic person, Leia seems most personally troubled by the YUUZHAN VONG.

URI

You're unable to stop them?

LEIA

Uri...

MALAGAR

Their blockade is unbreakable.

Once again, Leia seems affected. She collects herself. Uri is unconvinced.

LEIA

You're asking for military aid.

MALAGAR'S ASSISTANT

We are helpless!

MALAGAR

Zalago is one of the few we've freed from the mining pits.

Shyly, he comes forward and bows. His arms, untreated, have scrapes and lacerations.

MALAGAR (CONT'D)
Please. We need your help.

LEIA
My power is...limited. But I can call an emergency session in the Senate.

MALAGAR'S ASSISTANT
(angrily)
That is insufficient! Certainly you...

MALAGAR
Thank you, Chancellor Organa, for heeding our concerns. We await in earnest for the Senate's decision.

Nasty glances are exchanged as the crowd filters out. Leia tries to meet Zalago's eyes, but the boy trails off. The Governor lingers with Leia.

MALAGAR (CONT'D)
This issue, I know, is...close to you. Your husband.

Leia lets out some of her emotions but appears to let on less than what she knows.

EXT. - CHANCELLERY PAD - CONTINUOUS

Their walk continues out of the sliding doors.

LEIA
We believe Han is still in bondage. Somewhere.

MALAGAR
It's been ten years, no?

Most of his team have boarded the ship.

MALAGAR (CONT'D)
So. I hear your son leads the new and improved Rogue Squadron.

LEIA
He does.

Surprised, Leia didn't know how well-informed her compatriot

was. She looks at him abruptly.

MALAGAR (CONT'D)

Jacen's fought the Yuuzhan Vong harder than anyone else, no doubt to find his father. That is very noble. *Family* is the most important thing of all.

At this cryptic line and a smirk of appreciation, the ruler of LOTHAL gets on his ship, which quickly whisks away toward their apartments. Made weary by the galaxy's heavy weight, Leia retreats to privacy.

INT. - LOTHAL CRUISER I

Mid-voyage, the Governor is consulted by his assistant.

MALAGAR'S ASSISTANT

The New Republic won't be of any help to us. The Senate is a bunch of corrupt idealists.

MALAGAR

I agree, but Leia is honest.

MALAGAR'S ASSISTANT

Be that as it may...we must secure alternatives.

The Governor, knowing what the "alternative" is, cuts his assistant off and considers it alone.

CUT TO:

EXT. - GAREL - SPACE

The curvature of the planet, with its purple twilight sky, is offset by a slow-moving slave ship.

FOCUS ON: BRIDGE EXTERIOR, BRANDISHING VONG INSIGNIA

INT. - VONG SLAVE SHIP - BRIDGE

A Vong "overlord" looks upon Garel as his crew hums with work. They have bleached skin, pointed ears, mustard and bloodshot eyes. Their armor has jagged spikes.

Two Twi'lek sex workers are chained to the floor.

EXT. - VONG SLAVE SHIP - SPACE

Five unmarked X-wings emerge from hyperspace and activate cloaking tech. The leading ship cruises below and uncloaks.

An airlock system connects to the hull. The driver is JACEN SOLO, SON of the Chancellor and Han Solo, the missing Rebel hero, and he wears all black.

He slices into the tough metal casing with his green lightsaber. TTTSSSSS!!!! Using the Force, he jumps into the corridor.

INT. - VONG SLAVE SHIP - CORRIDOR I

After replacing the cut piece, Jacen goes rightward until two troopers spot him. He deflects their shots and slashes them with his lightsaber.

Security alarms are sounded as the Jedi feverishly dashes through dimly lit hallway.

INT. - VONG SLAVE SHIP - BRIDGE

Helplessly, Overlord Vylis watches Jacen mow down his men on a security camera. They all fear to be next.

VONG SHIPMAN I
Eia hiqa, Rayun. Na si prat?

TITLE: It's *them*, my Lord. What do we do?

OVERLORD VYLIS
Khateh tukk'o.

TITLE: Seal the doors.

Multiple layers of steel separate the bridge from the outside. No one can get in or out.

INT. - VONG SLAVE SHIP - HANGAR

The corridor leads Jacen in. Crates and ships are scattered about.

JACEN
(into com)
Clear.

The other squad members roll in as Jacen opens the protective shield.

ROGUE I
(jokingly, into com)
About time!

Clad in similar garments as the ROGUE SQUADRON of old, these armed-to-the-teeth vigilantes are battle-tested and unbound by rules of engagement.

JACEN
Let's go.

INT. - VONG SLAVE SHIP - CORRIDOR II

Resistance is encountered as the Vong form a line. While the rest take cover, Jacen FORCE PULLS the Vong's guns and charges at them viciously, thrusting and waving his lightsaber until none were left.

He signals his mates forward and they march to the layered door. Jacen uses the Force to put pressure on it.

INT. - VONG SLAVE SHIP - BRIDGE

On the other side, Overlord Vylis winces as tension fills the room. Dust billows as the last of it is demolished. Nothing can be seen, until Jacen is illuminated.

OVERLORD VYLIS
Mareh tiz! Yatush ya!

TITLE: Kill them! I command it!

Rogue Squadron easily disposes of Vylis' remaining confederates. The profiteer cowers as Jacen lords over him. A second lightsaber, PURPLE, is now ignited.

JACEN
(sternly)
Where are your slaves?!

OVERLORD VYLIS
We don't carry laborers.

FOCUS ON: SEX WORKERS, STILL CHAINED. JACEN DIRECTS ROGUE II TO ASSIST THEM.

Just then, Jacen impales Vylis with his twin lightsabers, seething with rage.

Rogue IV, who is a bit older than the rest, has discovered something notable.

ROGUE IV
Jacen. You should see this.

INT. - VONG SLAVE SHIP - HANGAR

They gather as Rogue IV opens a crate, revealing an assortment of rifles, grenades, and rocket launchers.

ROGUE IV
Imperial-grade. Pristine condition.

JACEN
How could the Yuuzhan Vong get a hold of these?

He inspects a DLT-20A, with its unusual circuitry barrel. Rogue IV looks and points up.

ROGUE IV
Sniper-class TIE fighters. Finest there is. Not even the Rebels saw action from these.

Jacen marvels at the aerodynamic craftsmanship,

JACEN
I don't know. But I do know General Antilles would like a look at this. Rorick. Retrieve my ship.

ROGUE III
(meekly)
Yes, captain.

JACEN
We're going to Dantooine.

With an authoritative gait, the triumphant swordsman moves to assume his post at the bridge.

EXT. - VONG SLAVE SHIP - SPACE

Enter hyperspace.

FADE IN:

EXT. - OSSUS - JUNGLE - DAY

Open to a small river with moss-infested rocks jutting out from the stream. Suddenly, a young female runs to the top right, balancing her feet in complex motions.

At her front side, we see she's blindfolded. She pushes herself onto a flat grassy surface. A Marksman-H training remote begins firing. She ignites a BLUE lightsaber to deflect. After the rounds are used up, the remote starts dancing in random circles. She FORCE PUSHES a rock to strike the remote, deactivating it.

She takes off her blindfold. Brunette and chocolate eyes. It is JAINA SOLO, DAUGHTER of Leia and Han. But a second remote blasts her from her rear, causing her to fall into a valley. She lifts her head and sees a pair of feet. They belong to LUKE SKYWALKER, JEDI MASTER.

LUKE
Have a nice fall?

JAINA
There weren't supposed to be two of them.

LUKE
(laughingly)
It's never just one obstacle. A faithful Jedi knows there are many.

Jaina scoffs at his implication as she stands back up and ascends the hill with her master and uncle.

JAINA
I've gotten better at it though. Now it looks easy.

LUKE
Anything can be made easy. Anything can be made hard. All that matters...

Jaina completes his comment to make fun.

JAINA
(smugly)
...is perspective.

LUKE
And the process. So take your time.

The Jedi TEMPLE is just ahead. It is a humble but relic-rich shrine to a once vibrant order, isolated from civilization. Vines have only started to creep on it. This Jedi Order is young.

Yards from the gate, Luke hands her a baton from a rack. He

takes one too.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Here. We haven't done this in a while.

Carefully, Jaina coordinates her pose. But without delay, Luke strikes her thigh. THWACK!

LUKE (CONT'D)

A Jedi knight must anticipate what their opponent does.

Another hit. Jaina gets up.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Only then can you...

(Jaina hits him)

Good. But if you're prideful...

(sweeps her feet)

You stumble.

Jaina impresses her master with an elaborate technique. But before she can, C3PO and R2D2, Luke's perpetual friends, interrupt.

C3PO

Master Luke? Miss Solo.

LUKE

Yes, Threepio.

A hologram of LEIA manifests on a disk C3PO sticks on the ground.

JAINA

Mother!

LEIA

(static)

It's good to...you, Jaina.

Leia looks to Luke, as though what she will say he already knows. C3PO and R2 make themselves seen too, which Leia acknowledges. Luke puts hands on Jaina's shoulders.

JAINA

What is it?

LEIA

Your brother has returned.

Jaina is overcome with excitement. She and Jacen have been lightyears apart for months.

JAINA

Where is he?

LEIA (CONT'D)

He's on Dantooine...with the fleet.
He's made a discovery of interest to
the New Republic. You and your uncle
will meet him there. May the Force be
with you, always.

The final sentence is the most audible and meaningful.

WIPE DOWN:

EXT. - DANTOOINE BASE - DAY

The once-discarded Rebel outpost now teems with life. The NEW REPUBLIC has staffed it with the top personnel in its DEFENSE FORCES. A YT-2400 light freighter, the "Blazing Spirit," Luke's ship, docks.

An emphasis on secrecy, as Jaina and Luke have hoods to hide their faces.

Meeting them are General WEDGE ANTILLES, Admiral ACKBAR, and the spry Captain CARLO CALRISSIAN, SON of Lando Calrissian. Luke first goes to Wedge, with whom he's amicable.

Chewbacca grabs Luke from behind with his massive paws. Pleasantries are also exchanged between Luke and Ackbar.

WEDGE (CONT'D)

We'll get you caught up.

Jaina and Carlo look at each other briefly.

INT. - DANTOOINE BASE - COMMONS

Luke and Wedge parse through a crowd of technicians and troopers, who have green and blue tunics, respectively.

LUKE

Young for a captain, no?

WEDGE

Calrissian has proven himself. There's
a lot of Lando in him.

Jacen, now in brown, sits with his fellows, then notices his old mentor coming toward him.

JACEN
Hello, uncle.

LUKE
(hugs him)
Jace.

Animosity, brewed over two decades, flows into their words. Jaina, lacking any resentment, embraces her brother.

JAINA
Jacen!

JACEN
So...is my little sister a Jedi knight?

LUKE
Almost.

Jaina looks at Luke. *Almost?*

There is an assembly in the data center. The siblings depart.

INT. - DANTOOINE BASE - DATA CENTER

People fill into a circle and face Wedge and Ackbar. A projection of the stolen Vong slave ship is shown.

WEDGE
Jacen Solo and his team recently commandeered a syndicate vessel in the Lothal system. There, they found highly advanced Imperial weapons, possibly supplied by Thrawn.

Colonel Kergen, a stout fellow with long windy sideburns, questions the logic.

COLONEL KERGEN
Isn't he dead? Those could be black market for all we know.

WEDGE
We don't know. But the Yuuzhan Vong have been expanding rapidly.

CARLO

(to Jacen)

Are there any prisoners from the raid?

Jacen has no response. Luke knows he often can't restrain his anger.

WEDGE

Concordantly...the Chancellor has told us Lothal has come under direct attack. A large slave encampment is fortified by the Vong fleet.

WEDGE

Lothal is requesting military intervention.

Unease stirs among the Republicans.

ACKBAR

Nothing can be done until the Senate approves it. But we should send a scout team. Captain Calrissian would be a fine...

LUKE

Jacen could do that. His Rogue Squadron is well-seasoned and free of regulation.

ACKBAR

Very well.

Why Luke wants Jacen back in the fray is unknown. But, nonetheless, Jacen nods approvingly, knowing this task may help in his quest.

EXT. - DANTOOINE BASE - NIGHT - LATER

As the participants in the session file out of the main building, enjoying the calm before the storm, Jaina and Jacen, who often don't have time to talk, have an opportunity to do so in the lush pines.

JAINA

So, you're gonna go?

JACEN

Luke asked me to. I would not deny your master.

Their garments sway in the gust.

JAINA

He's been pressuring me lately.

JACEN

As he should. Every Jedi knight has to undergo the trials.

JAINA

(candidly)

The temple's lonely Jacen. I want to have adventures like you do.

Jacen pauses.

JACEN

(sternly)

They're not adventures, Jaina. Our father's out there, in the hands of those savages. I feel it.

Something about this irks Jaina.

JACEN (CONT'D)

What?

JAINA

Master Luke taught me to avoid attachments.

JACEN

Jaina. Attachments make us real. I have to go.

She interprets this alternative maxim as her brother blends into the thicket. From afar, Jaina sees Luke in meditation and walks to him.

EXT. - DANTOOINE BASE - GARDEN - NIGHT

Luke is entranced, turmoiled. His eyes dart. Jaina joins him, resting her hand on his knee. Luke awakens, panting.

JAINA

What was that, master?

LUKE

(catching his breath)

I felt a darkness I haven't felt since I confronted the Emperor.

JAINA
What was it like?

LUKE
Hopelessness. Death.

The whoosh of Rogue Squadron's X-wings, ascending to space toward Lothal, sends wind.

LUKE (CONT'D)
I'm not certain what's next. But you need to be ready. A faithful Jedi can resist it, but the dark side is always a temptation.

JAINA
But aren't we enough? Now that Jacen's...

LUKE
Jacen's gone his own way. Your father...obsession is a path to the dark side. I try to protect him, as I do you.

Jaina senses that Luke knows something she doesn't, either about her brother or the upcoming battle.

JAINA
But...I'm not tempted.

LUKE
You will be.

Conscious of the trials every Jedi must face, Luke doesn't know how Jaina will cope with it.

WIPE UP:

EXT. - CORUSCANT - DAY

AN OVERVIEW OF THE CITY AND THE SENATE BUILDING.

INT. - CORUSCANT - SENATE

The conference of senators is hastily assembled for the emergency session, most grunting and annoyed.

Chancellor LEIA ORGANA rises into the forum's center.

FOCUS ON: HER MAIN RIVAL, SENATOR SALAX OF SERENNO.

LEIA

Distinguished senators. I implore your support against the violation of Lothal's sovereignty by the Yuuzhan Vong. I recommend an emergency military allocation.

From the upper deck, Governor Malagar observes the reactions and deliberations, boos and yeas. Salax emerges on his pod, quieting all. He possesses a bravado that is a foil to Leia's compassion.

SALAX

Might I remind this body that Chancellor Organa is yet to divulge the location of her brother's Jedi commune. That, historically, she has assaulted legitimate businessmen with the Defense Forces!

LEIA

Senator Salax. Our intelligence suggests Imperial weapons were found onboard a Vong slave ship near Lothal. Along with reports on the survival of *Grand Admiral Thrawn*.

This name evokes great fear in the senators, but especially in the Governor.

SALAX

Thrawn died protesting Palpatine failed empire. To suggest he's with the Syndicate is absurd! The New Republic must maintain the free trade agreements...

An ally of Leia, Senator KAI FISK of GATALENTA, argues on her behalf.

KAI FISK

And free trade will return to Lothal...once the Syndicate is defeated!

Despite his cleverness, Salax surrenders this debate.

SENATE CHAIR

Voting shall now commence.

Each member-world tallies their vote, which are tallied by a

secretary beside Leia.

SENATE CHAIR

The motion for a military allocation
to Lothal...passes. General Wedge
Antilles of Dantooine shall be
compelled to assemble.

A light applause as Leia breathes a sigh of relief, but
Governor Malagar is wrestling with something. *Is he perturbed
at Salax? Or has he done something?*

WIPE RIGHT:

EXT. - CORUSCANT - SENATE PICKUP ZONE - NIGHT

Salax and his allies board a cab with tinted windows and
speed into the sunset.

INT. - TAXICAR

While the driver minds the road, Salax turns on a hologram.
The recipient is a Chiss male in a white Imperial Admiral's
uniform. He is GRAND ADMIRAL THRAWN. He has blue skin and
slick black hair.

THRAWN

I expect good news, senator.

The insurgent mastermind's lips move deliberately. Blaring
red eyes, seen as brilliant blue, stare at Salax.

SALAX

Yes. The Senate voted in favor. And my
dissent was...believable. They do not
trust her.

THRAWN

What of the Jedi? Must I invest in new
spies?

SALAX

No, Grand Admiral. They are near the
Rebels on Dantooine.

Clearly, Salax has done little in this regard, and Thrawn has
made himself his superior.

THRAWN

Be sure to give your assets some
constructive encouragement. His

Lordship disdains repetitive failure.

SALAX

Yes, Grand Admiral. You'll have
Lothal...and the Jedi.

THRAWN

See that I do.

Salax is worried about his own future, let alone that of the Empire he's helping to reconstruct.

FADE IN:

EXT. - DANTOOINE BASE - DAY

There is a flurry of activity as the decision has reached the base. Officers order ships to move up to the frigates suspended in the sky. Crates of potatoes are filed.

N.R OFFICER I

Head out! Get ready!

Infantrymen, with their white fleet trooper helmets, march into carriers. On the sidelines, Wedge counsels the young Captain Carlo. The Spaceliner, the largest in the fleet, is now his.

WEDGE

It's all yours. Don't let us down.

CARLO

I won't.

Wedge pats Carlo and walks away. Carlo remains in awe of the behemoth he will be commanding.

INT. - SPACELINER - SHIP BAY

Jaina, a whiz with engineering, dons goggles as she tinkers on a ship. Chewie holds up a tool.

JAINA

No, it's *that* one.

Grunting erratically, Chewie gives her a screwdriver, not what she asked for. Exasperated, Jaina climbs out and combs through a toolkit.

CARLO

This one?

The captain, taking a break during the hyperspace journey, hands her an angle-beam, which she takes. A masked Chewie fires up a blowtorch, which he uses to meld two panels together.

CARLO (CONT'D)

Our fathers were pals. I first became
a pilot because of Han Solo.

Thinking of Han makes Jaina quit working. She was only a few years old when he was gone. To block out the pain, she turns to her hobbies.

JAINA

Yeah. Well I never got to know him.

CARLO

I didn't get much time with mine
either. Here, you'll like this.

Out of Carlo's pocket comes a tiny gadget droid with all sorts of accessories, like a melding wand and clippers, which amuses Jaina.

Across the room, C3PO and R2 spy on them, like parents watching their daughter on her first date.

C3PO

I don't like this one, R2. Miss Solo
is sure to get herself in trouble.

R2 turns to C3PO, judgingly.

C3PO (CONT'D)

Oh...don't give me that look. Forgive
me for being selective about whom I
trust, unlike you.

By this point, the gadget droid has reached C3PO's foot, prying out a loose panel, causing him to fall down.

C3PO (CONT'D)

Stop that. Ohhh!

This entertains Jaina even more, and the pair have a good laugh.

CARLO

Care to join me on the bridge?

He gives her his hand and she lifts herself down. Chewie,

ignoring this budding connection, fiddles with a welder.

WIPE LEFT:

EXT. - PARNASSOS - DAY?

A parade of fighters, unlike anything ever seen, dive into a planet of billowing smoke and ash, endless avenues of factories, and lakes of green chemical sludge.

An enormous UFO-esque warship, the OBLITERATOR is adjacent to an even taller grey tower. At its narrow peak, we encounter the leaders of this affair.

INT. - PARNASSOS - CENTRAL TOWER

GRAND ADMIRAL THRAWN stands imposingly at the head of long conference table.

He is with CYDON, his liaison, and ARBAQ AND BUPOSO, overlords of the Yuuzhan Vong.

THRAWN

Such beauty, isn't it? An empire born again.

His ruby red eyes squint at them. Arbaq responds in his native tongue.

ARBAQ

Bu chakeh o maz'o. Na sha ti Yuuzhan Vong?

A 3PO-series protocol droid translates.

TRANSLATOR

Do not mock us with riddles! What do you want with the Yuuzhan Vong?

THRAWN

The old empire is dead. But yours has just begun. Your master has given you this miracle...as have I.

His boldness intrigues the Vong, whose culture prefers strength. Buposo, who knows basic, challenges him.

BUPOSO

We question our master's judgment. Why would we make you *Sen Qorih* emperor of this filth of a galaxy? You are not

the strongest.

Thrawn is unfazed and hunches over the table dominantly.

THRAWN

Perhaps. But your master has faith in me. So should you. I come with knowledge, experience, that you do not have.

BUPOSO

(derisively)

Of what?

THRAWN

Many things. This galaxy. How to rule it. The New Republic's imminent attack on Lothal with the Jedi.

This is known to them, and they are anxious.

BUPOSO

What do you propose to do with them?

THRAWN

Swear loyalty to me. With my expertise, the New Republic will die.

Groaning, Buposo confers with Arbaq on Thrawn's terms.

BUPOSO

A galaxy should be ruled by one of its own. But power will be vested in the Yuuzhan Vong!

THRAWN

Tanneh tun mab'o.

TITLE: Long live the strong. (proverb)

In unison, they stand, bow, and leave. Thrawn doesn't recognize them, instead watching the Obliterator, a disc-shaped titan of militarism, from his window.

THRAWN (CONT'D)

Leave me, Cydon.

Cydon does so, and Thrawn sits down. At the middle of the table, a hologram opens, showing a dark-hooded figure, whose face is invisible.

THRAWN (CONT'D)

My Lord.

The phantom leans in. It is DARTH MAUL, master of the dark side and SITH LORD.

MAUL

Grand Admiral. Are the negotiations complete?

THRAWN

I don't understand. They answer to you. Why not command them to follow me?

The one who was so authoritative is now the lesser.

MAUL

A leader must inspire allegiance. I've taught you this, or am I mistaken?

Quivering in his chair, Thrawn is nervous not to further antagonize him. He needs Maul to rebuild the Vong empire.

MAUL (CONT'D)

The Republic will walk into its trap, and you will deliver me the one you promised...alive.

THRAWN

Yes, of course. Solo...the boy is unruly and unpredictable. Skywalker...

MAUL

No! Skywalker is too adept a Jedi. But with Solo, there is a key to break him.

Two of his Sith mistresses, TALON AND FANG, on his left and right, stunning Thrawn.

MAUL (CONT'D)

You forget the power of the Force. It is greater than any army, any Death Star, any empire. And it shall be mine.

CUT TO:

EXT. - LOTHAL - PLAIN - DAY

Rogue Squadron touches down on the occupied world, far enough from the massed Vong fleet to stay unnoticed.

There is nothing more than a weathervane in the short dry grasslands. Jacen activates a probe while the others use binoculars and cock their rifles.

EXT. - LOTHAL - SPACE

The seven frigates sent from Dantooine exit hyperspace. The Spaceliner leads the pack. They dwarf the feeble Vong defenses over the settlement.

INT. - SPACELINER - BRIDGE

Carlo is at the helm. Beside him are Luke, Jaina, C3PO, R2D2, and Chewie, as well as his crew.

Lothal, with its seas and terrains.

JAINA
It's beautiful.

CARLO
Admiral. Do you copy?

INT. - N.R CRUISER I - BRIDGE

Ackbar, although in command of the fleet, has a slightly smaller ship.

ACKBAR
We copy, Captain Calrissian. All forces are in range.

INT. - N.R CRUISER II - BRIDGE

Adrana Madine, daughter of Crix Madine, is Vice Admiral and second in command. She has stark eyelashes and ginger hair.

MADINE
We have eyes on the colony.

INT. - SPACELINER - BRIDGE

CARLO
Cue Rogue Leader in.

N.R Officer II opens a line to the surface where Jacen is.

CARLO (CONT'D)
Rogue leader. Come in.

EXT. - LOTHAL - PLAIN - DAY

JACEN
(intercom)
In position.

There is an eerie stillness. Wheat-like plants sway. The dunes in the foreground are a great place to lodge an ambush.

INT. - SPACELINER - BRIDGE

CARLO
Contact the colony.

The Yuuzhan Vong are hailed.

CARLO (CONT'D)
We are the New Republic Defense
Forces. In the name of galactic law,
we demand your unconditional surrender
and release of your prisoners.

Nothing.

N.R OFFICER II
No interference, Captain.

Luke feels the gravity of the situation for his compatriots, but suddenly is overtaken by the Force. Something is coming.

EXT. - LOTHAL - PLAIN - DAY

Jacen closes his scanner and walks back to his ship.

BOOOOOOOOMM!!!! A missile explodes all five X-wings, killing two squads-men. Jacen is jolted backwards, his face struck with horror at the gruesome wreckage.

He turns his head to see three shuttles. Troopers storm out and fire upon him, GRAZING his hip. He ignites his lightsaber and crouches. Rogue IV checks his wound.

These troopers have armor like a crab's, humongous boots, and have daggers attached to the hands and feet.

INT. - SPACELINER - BRIDGE

The OBLITERATOR, in all its might, blasts out of lightspeed, with its cannon charged and ready.

CARLO

What is that?! Admiral?!

INT. - OBLITERATOR - BRIDGE

Terak, a bloodthirsty servant of Thrawn, selects where to sick the death-beam.

TERAK

Javaneh!

TITLE: Fire!

EXT. - LOTHAL - SPACE

Madine, whose ship is farthest up, is among the first victims of the terror. A lime green laser, thick with an untold energy sum, blows up N.R Cruiser II in an instant.

INT. - SPACELINER - BRIDGE

All are aghast as they see the fireball, especially Jaina, who scarcely leaves the calmness of the Temple. Luke knows why the Force has warned him. An evil has staged this against the Jedi.

CARLO

(in a panic)

Battle stations! Bolster the ray shields!

Protective of his own, Luke folds his hands into his cloak and rests. Jaina wants to help but has no idea how.

EXT. - LOTHAL - SPACE

Fighters from both sides spring to action, furiously discharging fire.

But the sleeker designs, HAVOKs, PREVIEWED on the Vong slave ship, easily sliver through the cavalry and take aim at the N.R frigates.

Transporters from the OBLITERATOR dispatch to Lothal, and the preoccupied Defense Forces are predisposed.

EXT. - LOTHAL - PLAIN - DAY

Fending off the attackers with his green lightsaber, Jacen, Rogue III (Rorick), and Rogue IV are forced to retreat.

As they do, Rogue IV is fatally hit by a barrage of shots.

Jacen has no time to mourn, as he sees two women dressed in black and red, one Twi'lek (TALON) and the other Dathomiri (FANG), observing the carnage.

The two ignite their lightsabers, Talon a double-bladed red and Fang a single-bladed red. To even the playing field, Jacen takes out his PURPLE lightsaber.

FANG charges and they cross blades, but then Talon too. Jacen uses hate as a way to keep focus against two opponents on either side, but he is disjointed by trauma.

INT. - SPACELINER - BRIDGE

The clash in space is rattling. Carlo, inexperienced with command, defers to Ackbar.

CARLO

What's our plan, Admiral?

ACKBAR

(intercom)

Target all fire on the central cannon.
Our shields can't withstand its
energy.

INT. - RED LEADER X-WING

Red leader pivots towards the behemoth.

RED LEADER

This is red leader. I want us on that
cannon.

EXT. - LOTHAL - SPACE

He is with two of his mates, but they are soon tailed.

INT. - RED II X-WING

RED II

I'm tailed.

INT. - RED III X-WING

RED III
Me too.

INT. - RED LEADER X-WING

RED LEADER
Try to shake 'em but stay on course.

EXT. - LOTHAL - SPACE

Unable to evade, Red II and III are each disposed of. Red Leader is clipped and his controls fail.

INT. - RED LEADER X-WING

He spirals into a fighter at full speed.

RED LEADER
Ahhh!!!

Gone.

INT. - YELLOW LEADER X-WING

In vain, Yellow team assists.

YELLOW LEADER
Red leader. This is Yellow leader.

Too deep in enemy territory, they are surrounded.

YELLOW LEADER (CONT'D)
Ahhh!!

Gone.

EXT. - LOTHAL - PLAIN - DAY

The fight continues. Jacen is able to down Talon temporarily, but loses his PURPLE lightsaber. Fang, knowing her orders are to NOT kill Jacen, attempts to disarm him in physical combat.

This is too dangerous as Jacen slashes diagonally and Fang has to repel multiple thrusts.

Rogue III, the last one, conceals himself in the debris. But a stormtrooper engages his position and SHOTS him in the stomach. Rogue III takes down this assailant, but he's badly hurt.

INT. - N.R CRUISER I - BRIDGE

Ackbar, with sorrow over wasting good men and ammo on a wasted cause, decides to evacuate. His ship prepares for lightspeed.

ACKBAR

Captain. The cannon is almost charged.
Withdraw your forces!

INT. - SPACELINER - BRIDGE

CARLO

But Admiral...

ACKBAR

(intercom)

Immediately, Captain!

Conflicted, Carlo hesitates to give the order, which Luke senses, worrying him.

JAINA

But...what about Jacen?

EXT. - LOTHAL - PLAIN - DAY

Jacen swerves from Talon and pulls back to leave some space. Fang opts to approach, swiping at his feet.

They scrape in the middle. Then, Jacen stabs outward. As his anger beats, Fang swings hard but stops at his neck. He's been beat.

But a blaster is discharged at FANG.

FOCUS ON: ROGUE III, LYING ON THE GROUND, MORTALLY WOUNDED, HIS GUN SMOKING, AND HIS HAND RELEASING ITS GRIP.

Jacen SLASHES her, then rushes to help his colleague, but TALON uses the Force to knock him UNCONSCIOUS. He is deposited on a gurney. Men in Talon's service strap him in and take him onto a carrier.

EXT. - LOTHAL - SPACE

The cannon's power rings are nearly fully charged.

The N.R is in a dogfight to escape. Several Yuuzhan Vong Yorik-et fighters help eliminate them.

INT. - SPACELINER - BRIDGE

Petrified by the chaos, Captain Calrissian neglects to perform his duties. His commanding officer snaps him back.

ACKBAR

Leave now Captain!

CARLO

Yes, Admiral.

(to N.R OFFICER II)

Do it.

Jaina can't believe they would just desert Jacen and the remaining pilots. The Spaceliner begins to rotate.

JAINA

What? Jacen's still down there.

LUKE

There is nothing we can do.

Luke holds her arm tightly, but Jaina can see the ship with Jacen rising to the OBLITERATOR.

JAINA

He's on that transporter.

She jerks herself away and snatches her satchel. R2 follows her out of the bridge.

LUKE

Jaina!

INT. - SPACELINER - CORRIDOR

R2 jams the door to keep Luke from chasing her.

INT. - SPACELINER - BRIDGE

Luke bangs on the door to no avail, and he slips as the ship changes its heading. Carlo looks on, knowing he's responsible for what happens to the young Jedi.

INT. - SPACELINER - SHIP BAY

Scampering in, Jaina boards the craft she was working on earlier. R2 goes into his socket, beeping to show distress.

JAINA

Yeah. But Jacen needs us.

Past the oxygen barrier and into the melee, spotting the Obliterator ahead.

INT. - OBLITERATOR - BRIDGE

A display indicates the cannon is recharged. Admiral Terak sees the N.R Cruiser I (Ackbar's ship) going into lightspeed and the Spaceliner nearly ready to do so too.

VONG OFFICER I
Eia duwin sahr-alum.

TITLE: They're about to enter hyperspace.

TERAK
Sheleh tiz. Si dag zahtaj.

TITLE: Let them. We have what we came for.

EXT. - LOTHAL - SPACE

Performing an evasive maneuver amid the clutter of fallen ships, Jaina inches toward the Obliterator.

As two Yorik-et fighters follow her, Jaina glimpses on her rear the disappearance of the metal creature. The Yorik-ets have spear-shaped arms that jut from a sphere.

Set on saving herself, she dives into the atmosphere.

EXT. - LOTHAL - SKY - DAY

Shrouded by the clouds, Jaina is able to blow up a fighter that accidentally gets ahead of her.

But she then realizes systems controls are malfunctioning.

EXT. - LOTHAL - MOUNTAINS

Bracing for impact, the ship craters just apart from a range of cone-shaped peaks.

Jaina, with some effort, releases the hatch. R2 ejects.

FOCUS ON: THE BACKSIDE OF A CLOAKED MAN WATCHING HER FROM AFAR.

Measuring the crash, Jaina is alerted by R2's shrill to an elderly man looming over her. He has a dark brown robe and a wooden staff. His name is DAR YOON (daahr-yoon).

DAR YOON
You're lucky to have lived.

Reflexively, Jaina exhibits her lightsaber but doesn't ignite it. Yoon raises up his hands.

DAR YOON (CONT'D)
I mean you no harm.
(looks up)
It was quite the battle up there.

To not appear helpless, Jaina plays with parts of the ship, but nothing can be repaired. She ignores him.

DAR YOON (CONT'D)
My name is Dar Yoon. And you must be
Jaina.

Startled, Jaina gets defensive.

JAINA
How do you know my name?

DAR YOON
Why, young Jedi, I know your father!

JAINA
(sardonically)
My father? How would you know him. He
went missing years ago.

Jaina tinkers with her wrecked ship, looking for useful spare parts to take with her.

DAR YOON
The syndicate...yes. But he is free.

She turns from her work to look at him.

DAR YOON (CONT'D)
We were once great outlaws, scoundrels
to the galaxy. But he the better one,
with that spunk for adventure. Denial
of the odds. Capacity for love.

"Love," Jaina thinks. This brings her to Jacen, Han's only son, and she's thinks of why she's here.

JAINA
Jacen. My brother. He...was taken...by
them.

She scans the dimming sky for a sign, but the Obliterator is long gone.

DAR YOON
You won't find civilization anywhere
near here. This is a land of nomads. I
should know. I'm one of them.

With no way of knowing where Jacen went and no means to leave Lothal, Jaina succumbs to exhaustion.

DAR YOON (CONT'D)
I smuggle *people* just as well as
goods. I can *take* you to your father.
He lives on Nar Shaddaa.

JAINA
How do I...

The YUUZHAN VONG Yorik-et fighter that had missed her before swoops down for the kill. Yoon transforms his staff into a sharpshooter, aims intently, and fires at it in midair.
TTTSSSHHHEEWWW!! BAAANNG!!

Clearly, Dar Yoon is defter than he lets on.

DAR YOON
Please. Come *with* me.

What choice do I have?

CUT TO:

INT. - SPACELINER - MEDICAL BAY

An anti-swelling agent is inserted into Luke's arm. Carlo comes in, interested in Luke's condition.

CARLO
Master Skywalker. I...

Luke PUNCHES Carlo squarely across the face. Vials of medication fall.

LUKE
You *waited!* Because of you Jacen is in
enemy hands and Jaina is without her
master!

Carlo nurses his cheek and slowly gets up.

CARLO

You saw what I saw. We were being
slaughtered. But, as captain, I
couldn't just strand them.

LUKE

And so you put others in danger.
Sometimes, leaders make tough
decisions. You didn't, Calrissian.

Luke gazes into the tunnel of hyperspace, thinking of what
happened to the jubilant boy he once was.

CARLO

What will you do now?

LUKE

Go back to Lothal. I can only hope the
Force has guided her to safety.

CARLO

Let me go with you.

LUKE

This is my burden.

CARLO

I...was relieved of my captainship.

Recognizing his younger self, Luke admires his boldness. But
he also makes out an inkling of attraction.

LUKE

We're leaving now.

Though not fit to walk, Luke strides out.

CARLO

Is she your favorite?

LUKE

She is...the Chosen One.

WIPE CLOCKWISE:

INT. - OBLITERATOR - PRISON CELL

Lying unconscious, JACEN is roused by a quake and the
thudding of footsteps. The cell is white with no bars, only a
force-field. It is deactivated by GRAND ADMIRAL THRAWN. The
Lady TALON and a torture bot are with him.

JACEN

Where am I? Who are you?

THRAWN

I am Grand Admiral Thrawn, and this is the lovely Lady Talon.

He sensually strokes the dome and the lekku (tails) on her head. She hisses at Jacen, whom she blames for Fang's death.

JACEN

My friends.

THRAWN

All dead to the man, I'm afraid.

Jacen lets the rage flow through him. He has foregone all Jedi training to the contrary.

THRAWN (CONT'D)

But I have some more to discuss with you. Son of Chancellor Organa, nephew of Luke Skywalker, leader...or once-leader, of Rogue Squadron. You will tell me everything.

JACEN

No.

THRAWN

(smirking)

This fine lady says you killed her sister. What would she do if I left her alone with you?

(squeezing her cheek)

No. Not today. But I have something else for you.

The torture bot, armed with a needle, whirrs toward Jacen. He winces as he anticipates the poison.

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. - DANTOOINE BASE - DATA CENTER

Jacen's face is shown in a hologram. Leia, distraught over the recent events, is present with Wedge and Ackbar.

WEDGE

Luke is doing everything he can to locate your children, Chancellor.

LEIA
Very well.

Images of the OBLITERATOR appear in sequence, highlighting its size and the cannon.

WEDGE
It was worse than imaginable. The
Syndicate has achieved a technological
feat thought fictional.

It is implied Lothal may have been a ploy.

LEIA
I cannot allow myself to think the
Governor would betray me. I will
inform the Senate. And General, bring
them home.

End transmission. The veterans Wedge and Ackbar, though familiar with war, are dangerously unsure of the future.

CUT TO:

EXT. - YOON'S FREIGHTER

The ship glides through hyperspace.

INT. - YOON'S FREIGHTER - COCKPIT

There are boxes and gizmos lying about. It's apparent Dar Yoon is a hoarder. Jaina sits at his right.

JAINA
What is he like?

DAR YOON
He's a good man.

JAINA
Why didn't he come back when he was
set free?

DAR YOON
You'll have to ask him that yourself.

He seems to know less about Han than Jaina hoped.

JAINA
Uhh. It's kinda cramped in here.

She rummages past the clutter and into a lounge area.

INT. - YOON'S FREIGHTER - LOUNGE

R2 is at a charging station on OFF mode but stirs as Jaina rests on a table.

Roaming with a sensor, R2 lets off some nervous beeps.

JAINA

R2?

The astromech bumps onto a drawer. She opens it and removes a lightsaber hilt, lengthened and with grips in the middle.

Before she can do anything with it, however, she activates a recording of a young man, genuflecting in reverence. The audio is hard to discern.

RECORDING VOICE

Master, I've done as you asked. I killed them all. I showed no mercy. As you commanded, I will assume the title of my house. I pledge my life to you as Lord of the Sith.

Yoon is heard coming downstairs. Jaina hastily turns it off and sits down.

RECORDING VOICE (CONT'D)

I will forever be known to you as Darth...

DAR YOON

Almost there.

Tensed, Jaina coils her legs and straightens her back.

DAR YOON (CONT'D)

Nar Shaddaa is a crime haven. Don't expect nice faces. We'll take shelter at an inn and begin in the morning.

Dar Yoon digs into his holster and offers her a pistol, but Jaina clenches the lightsaber at her hip.

DAR YOON (CONT'D)

That won't be enough. Trust me.

Jaina takes the pistol, gets up, and follows him out. Glued to her is R2, her guardian.

WIPE LEFT:

INT. - BLAZING SPIRIT - COCKPIT

Drifting over LOTHAL, Carlo drives casually past the Vong fleet assembled above the slave colony. He is with Luke, Chewie, and C3PO.

LUKE

Are you sure they won't see us?

CARLO

No.

Luke rolls his eyes.

C3PO

The probability of detection is between 45 and 70 percent.

A repetitive sound from the dashboard.

LUKE

That's a radio frequency.

CARLO

One of ours. Ships emit a signal whenever active.

Luke maintains hope that his padawan may yet be alive.

Hovering over the surface en route to the signal, glee turns to alarm. Below is the jumbled mess of Jaina's ship.

LUKE

Take us down!

The ramp opens and Luke tears out. Speechless, all he sees is wreathes of flame.

LUKE (CONT'D)

No. It can't be.

Chewie cries in mourning, thinking Jaina had died. Carlo is woeful, not only because he has feelings for her, but he knows he'd be held responsible by a vengeful Luke.

But Luke holds out his hand to the inferno and feels her through the Force, but also something else, mysterious and dark, that makes him withdraw his hand and soothe it.

LUKE (CONT'D)
She's alive.

Carlo helps Luke up, but he brushes him aside.

He is determined to find Jaina and liberate her from the darkness that dwells with her.

WIPE LEFT:

EXT. - NAR SHADDAA - STARPORT - NIGHT

Piercing lights emanate from the docking zones. Even this late at night, there is the shuffle of ships going in and out. After-hour parties and street-vending are happening in town.

STARPORT EMPLOYEE
Fifty credits for parking.

Jaina notices a slight wave of Yoon's hand behind his back, and the employee flip-flops.

STARPORT EMPLOYEE (CONT'D)
Or...uh...fifteen.

DAR YOON
Throw in a scrub too.

He tosses over a bunch of coins, and a washing team readily goes to work.

EXT. - NAR SHADDAA - SCUM VILLAGE - NIGHT

There is a loud commercial quarter teeming with all sorts of drinking, eating, and games of chance. Boxers spar in a makeshift pit; female belly dancers charm leering men; advertisements promote blue milk and prostitutes.

Pimps, with gallant jewelry, stroll through the plazas with their women much like the Vong overlords.

A bunch of bounty hunters sneer at Jaina. Merchants caress R2's perfect robotic anatomy. While this upsets them greatly, Dar Yoon is not too affected by the debauchery and sinfulness.

Seated just a few tables away from the bounty hunters, a man stares at Jaina and turns to his NEW REPUBLIC-issued com, and notifies an unknown person of Jaina's arrival.

EXT. - NAR SHADDAA - INN - NIGHT

They enter a square where there is an armed Bothan guard and a doorway.

DAR YOON
Is Rynscar in?

The brute only snorts at him. But the woman known as Rynscar emerges to introduce herself.

RYNSCAR
Yes, she is. Haven't seen you in a while.

Yoon shrugs, but it is obvious that they had a previous relationship.

RYNSCAR (CONT'D)
Pick your poison. On the house.

DAR YOON
We'd prefer rest. My partner and I have traveled a long way.

Rynscar turns to Jaina and R2, who were standing behind him.

RYNSCAR
Who is *this*...and *that*?

DAR YOON
Friends of mine.

She gets the memo, jerking her head to let them into the mess hall.

INT. - NAR SHADDAA - INN

Unlike the noisy public roads, the hotel is muted. Jaina and Yoon are better dressed and upright than anyone else. Patrons sulk on bar stools, and an Ugnaught barkeep pours red liquor in shot glasses.

Upstairs to the floor where there are rooms.

JAINA
Do you know where we could find Han Solo?

RYNSCAR
Han Solo?

Their host's expression changes, like knowing Han Solo is reserved for an inner circle. Yoon wanted this mission secret.

DAR YOON

It's for a job.

After taking time to judge their intentions, she whispers in his ear.

RYNSCAR

Duros Sector. Frequents Serella's cantina. But...he is wherever the Hutts aren't.

(sizes up Jaina)

Good night.

Jaina enters the room with R2. Yoon looks both ways before closing the door, wary of the unwanted attention Jaina elicited. Synth-disco music blares.

WIPE RIGHT:

EXT. - PARNASSOS - SPACE

The dark and overpowering outline of the OBLITERATOR obstructs the sunlight from the nuclear wasteland planet. Smog paints the atmosphere and ooze blankets it.

A convoy of new destroyers stand prepared for the turbulence of war.

EXT. - PARNASSOS - PLATFORM - DAY?

A collection of troopers welcomes the victorious Thrawn, who, with Talon, escorts their prisoner, hooded and shackled.

The syndicate has an ovular obsidian-colored mothership. Heavy rain develops a neon hue.

They reach LIEUTENANT CYDON, who has a gas mask.

CYDON

A success.

Jacen's hood is removed. Cydon steps aside, baring the hulking figure of MAUL approaching. Pharma-tanks with tubes insert into his arms. Ball joints serve as knees. His face is wrinkled but demonic. Talon kneels.

THRAWN
(half-kneeling)
My Lord.

Instead of recognizing them, Maul bends down and stares straight into Jacen with his yellow and red eyes, showing his rotted teeth.

MAUL
You've done well, Emperor.
Condolences, my Lady. It will be
avenged.

She follows him as he starts toward his ship. At Cydon's instruction, Jacen is fetched by the Yuuzhan Vong. The lieutenant This was not Thrawn's plan.

THRAWN
My Lord. He's an invaluable asset...

MAUL
Ready your assault.

They leave. Thrawn is threatened at this display of dominance, vexed on how it affects his men.

THRAWN
Bring out the traitor!

It is GOVERNOR MALAGAR of LOTHAL.

MALAGAR
You lying snake! You said you had an
army of stormtroopers...

He is struck across the cheek, dropping him to the ground.

THRAWN
Thank you. This one won't stop
talking.
(squeezes his throat)
Governor do not be afraid. In death,
you are of no use to me. You will help
us or suffer the fate of the rebels.

Sucked into this by love for his people, the Governor knows he's beholden to Thrawn or destined to face certain death.

INT. - MAUL'S SHIP - CELL

Jacen is violently heaved in. The bars are rusted, and it is

cold and empty.

Talon hisses and scowls at him, then saunters away.

JACEN

Hey! Hey! Look, you attacked me, ok?
Why don't you tell me where we're
going?

No response.

JACEN (CONT'D)

Or...or...at least your name!

She turns back to him.

TALON

Lady...Talon.

JACEN

That's not your real name, is it? What
is your...

Offended, she swiftly exits. Jacen is left to stew with his
fear and regain his strength.

FADE IN:

INT. - BLAZING SPIRIT - HOLD AREA

Luke hangs his head, feeling defeated, while C3PO is
terrorized by Carlo's automated trinket. Chewie cleans his
crossbow.

C3PO

Ow! Keep that devilish thing away from
me.

Carlo takes it away and sees how Luke is bothered.

CARLO

She is tough. Maybe she's alright.

LUKE

She's a girl. Not finished with her
training. What master am I?

Chewie murmurs, reminding Luke he was once rash and
inexperienced.

LUKE (CONT'D)

After the war, I looked everywhere for Force-sensitive individuals. Jaina and Jacen are all I have. To lose them both is to lose the Jedi.

CARLO

We'll find them.

Luke doesn't mention the darkness he sees in Jacen and his apprehension in saving him. The input system pings with a message, which Carlo reads.

CARLO

I think we're one step closer.

CUT TO:

EXT. - NAR SHADDAA - STARPORT - DAY

With Jaina and R2, Dar Yoon negotiates with an Ithorian valet next to a storage facility where his freighter is being serviced.

DAR YOON

What do you mean I can't take this to the Duros Sector?

VALET

(monotone)

Large passenger ships are banned from inter-city travel. Please use speeders available for purchase.

He directs them to a shop. Its owner, same species as the valet, waves at them jovially.

Yoon sighs, knowing it's a scam.

EXT. - NAR SHADDAA - SPEEDER SHIP - DAY - CONTINUOUS

DAR YOON

Hello, tradesman.

Ignoring them, the owner strikes a deal with a Trandoshan in gang attire. Yoon bumps into him as he leaves.

DAR YOON (CONT'D)

We're interested in a pair of TC-6 voyagers.

Jaina inspects the merchandise. As she does so, a human gang member, Saper Nefas, gropes her forearm.

SAPER NEFAS
Hey there, pretty.

JAINA
Piss off.

The Gamorrean with Nefas cackles.

SAPER NEFAS
Woah. Feisty. You all by yourself?

He grabs her waist, but Jaina ignites her BLUE lightsaber. Nefas trips onto his buddies. Yoon, engaged with the owner, assists.

DAR YOON
Jaina! Not a good...

The gang members draw their weapons.

DAR YOON (CONT'D)
...idea.

The Trandoshan chastises them in Huttese.

TRANDOSHAN
Hasa do wanga!

It's a standoff. Jaina holds her lightsaber firmly. Yoon is calm and prepared. R2 beeps with trepidation. Jaina notices Yoon is clutching his side, like he has a weapon there.

When the Trandoshan is close enough, Yoon dislodges his blaster with his staff.

Nefas fires, hitting the Trandoshan. Yoon hits one after another, evading every shot. Yoon gives the owner a handful of credits and takes a speeder.

DAR YOON
Let's go.

They scam as R2 flies alongside them.

FALL TO:

EXT. - NAR SHADDAA - STARPORT - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Just below, the valet sleeps in his stall, but LUKE SKYWALKER pounds on the glass, having been told of Jaina's location.

LUKE
Hello! Hello!

Chewie roars and wakes him up in a tizzy. Even Carlo is startled.

LUKE (CONT'D)
Have you seen this girl?

Luke shows him a digital photo of Jaina, but the valet refuses to say, so he employs a Jedi mind trick. He points out where the speeder was stolen.

VALET
Duros Sector.

EXT. - NAR SHADDAA - DUROS SECTOR - ALLEY - DAY

Yoon drops off the speeder and begins toward the crowded street. The Duros Sector is just as saturated, with beaming lights and shady characters.

Jaina remains with R2, suspicious of who this person really is. Yoon scrutinizes the surroundings.

JAINA
Who are you?

DAR YOON
Jaina...I'm...

Jaina FORCE PULLS a lightsaber from his side and ignites it. It burns SITH RED!

JAINA
You're a Sith Lord!

Knowing this confrontation would come, Dar Yoon sits on a container, hands clasped and hunched over.

The hum of his lightsaber, which Jaina aims at him, contrasts with the noises from the street. Yoon lays down his staff.

FOCUS ON: HER FURIOUS FACE AGAINST THE LIGHTSABER'S GLOW

DAR YOON

I was...a long time ago. The man I am today is much unlike the man *he* was then. I went by other names.

(looks down, rubs hands)

I wasn't even human. I was in love with someone.

Names? Human? Jaina doesn't register what this means, and she still feels in danger. The softness in his demeanor indicates a potency within him.

DAR YOON (CONT'D)

Hmm. You saw the recording. *He* was my apprentice. Impressionable...prideful. I seized on his weaknesses. He did *unspeakable* things to prove his loyalty.

Jaina had only heard of the Sith in Luke's ancient texts, and so she is wary of their malevolent ways. She eases her stance.

DAR YOON (CONT'D)

But in the Sith, there can only be two. He killed me in my sleep. I was resurrected by the dark side of the Force. But I was depleted...lonely. By then, my apprentice was the new Lord, exacting my plan to perfection against the Jedi.

She knows perfectly well who that was.

JAINA

Sidious.

DAR YOON

I felt responsible for everything but was powerless to act. Thus, I became Dar Yoon. My name is Hego Damask. Darth Plagueis.

DAR YOON, the traveler she happened upon, is DARTH PLAGUEIS THE WISE, REBORN. **DAR YOON = PLAGUEIS**

Plagueis bows his head in shame, then rises. Jaina retracts the lightsaber.

JAINA

Why did you save me?

PLAGUEIS

Because...I want to be free of the dark side. To do what's right. I was going to tell you.

JAINA

My father. Was that a lie too?

PLAGUEIS

No! No! I...I *know* of him very well.

(Jaina scoffs)

Please believe me. Jaina, you have much to learn of the Force. Seeing him again will be good for you.

Instantly, the hollers and trots of passersby become audible, and Jaina is compelled to see what's out there.

EXT. - NAR SHADDAA - DUROS SECTOR - STREET - DAY

R2 waddles near Jaina, who dutifully shirks from the gaze of leering men.

Now they are at Serella's Cantina, the den Rynscar told them to go. Plagueis offers to enter behind her, but she insists the opposite.

INT. - NAR SHADDAA - SERELLA'S CANTINA

Busybodies of every species mingle, dine, and stand at the bar. Some look curiously at the strange newcomers.

Jaina scans the patrons, eager to find her father in one of the faces. All she finds are ugly ones. She begins to lose hope, but senses something in the Force.

Not far from them, there is a booth on an elevated platform with drunkards playing a drinking game. One of them swallows two glasses at once, and the turn goes to the next. The drink is poured.

A man, cloaked in shadow, extends his hand and takes his glass. As he imbibes it and sets it down, he crosses into the light. It is HAN SOLO, the long lost SMUGGLER AND REBEL HERO. His scraggly beard blankets his whole face.

HAN

I'm no light weight.

He pours a second.

HAN (CONT'D)
What 're you looking at?

He misreads a look and swats at a Rodian next to him, but drunkenly falls and gets pushed down to the dance floor, right onto his face.

At hearing the thud, Jaina looks out and sees her father writhing, getting beaten up by thugs. She lashes out with her lightsaber, waving it to shoo them away. She helps him up.

Arising from his stupor, he feel Jaina's hands and squints to look at her.

HAN (CONT'D)
Jaina? Is that you?

Speechless, she hugs him tightly.

INT. - NAR SHADDAA - SERELLA'S CANTINA - LATER

Now at a separate booth, Jaina and Han recount the lapsed time, as the latter pets R2.

HAN (CONT'D)
You...uh...grew up.
(looks at Plagueis)
Who's this?

JAINA
A friend.

Plagueis is thankful.

HAN
So...what do you wanna talk about?

JAINA
Jacen. He was captured, like you.

HAN
The syndicate? I've missed a lot.

Jaina decides not to insert the most obvious question: *Why did you never come back?*

JAINA
Were have you been?

Han looks around, implying this place has been his home.

HAN
Here. The Smuggler league has kept me
hidden...as a favor.

JAINA
Because of the syndicate?

HAN
The Hutts.

JAINA
But why have you never...

HAN
I need a refill. Be right back.

Dejected, Jaina considers whether her father is the same man
as the one she grew up with.

SENATOR I (PRE-LAP)
(yelling)
This cannot be!

SENATOR II (PRE-LAP)
What will we do?!

CUT TO:

INT. - CORUSCANT - SENATE

Fits of anger and insults erupt in the hallowed chamber. Leia
is stoic at her pulpit.

SENATE CHAIR
Order!

LEIA
The tragedy on Lothal confirms Thrawn
is with the Syndicate, and they are
working to overthrow us.

A still of the OBLITERATOR shushes the hecklers.

KAI FISK
The Chancellor is correct. The Yuuzhan
Vong are his partners in deep space.
And they are building a war machine!

Hundreds of mouths move at once.

SENATOR III
Ludicrous!

SENATOR IV
Listen to him!

SALAX
You speak of rumors, Kai Fisk. The
Chancellor's incompetence is to blame
for the disaster. Her *Defense Forces*
failed to defend us!

His allies agree.

KAI FISK
What is your solution, then?

SALAX
Give the corporations a chance! To
outfit our arsenal!

LEIA
The ones you own?

Boos rain like hail.

SENATOR V
Privatize labor!

SENATOR VI
To an end with the Organa regime!

There is a brawl as pods are rammed into each other. Uri
retracts theirs into the holding office, as Salax turns to
his associate.

SALAX
Let this victory be known to the Grand
Admiral.

INT. - SENATE - HOLDING OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

In a craze, Leia sends a communique to Antilles. Uri listens
to the thuds above.

LEIA
Dantooine must know of what's happened
in the Senate. So does the Alliance.

Uri is flabbergasted. *What Alliance?*

URI
The Rebellion has disbanded.

LEIA
Not exactly.

Leia's stoicism and secrecy had a function, Uri realizes.

URI
What will you tell them?

LEIA
Hope is lost.

EXT. - NAR SHADDAA - DUROS SECTOR - STREET - DAY - LATER

After locking their speeders on an anti-theft rack, Luke, Han, Chewie, and C3PO enter the crowded field of commuters and shoppers.

LUKE scrutinizes each vendor and storefront in hopes of finding Jaina. Given that Luke is well-known throughout the galaxy, loved and hated, Carlo walks ahead of him, concealing a blaster under his jacket.

One salesman offers people employment at the Hutts' Tatooine Palace.

CARLO
Hutts.

Chewie remembers that wretched venue personally, and he shudders.

Luke moves his hand, searching for Jaina through the Force.

C3PO
I'm afraid we will never find her,
Master Luke. The Duros Sector is over
fifty square miles...

Luke stops and props his hand on the walls of Serella's Cantina. He knows she's inside.

LUKE
She's here.

CARLO
How do you know that?

LUKE

I feel her...Remember, Antilles spoke
of *another*. We don't know if he is
friend...or foe. So be vigilant.

INT. - NAR SHADDAA - SERELLA'S CANTINA - CONTINUOUS

Into the den of swindlers and thieves. Jaina is nowhere in sight. But before they can move forward, Luke and Carlo are TACKLED by Hutt goons. Carlo's satchel is snagged. C3PO surrenders with no objection.

Chewie is tased by an electric rod, and he roars loudly.

This sound makes Jaina, Han and Plagueis inspect the commotion. Han recognizes Chewie's cry but it's hidden. Plagueis, who has foreseen Luke's coming, knows he has come for her. Rynscar and Nefas are both there, implying this was set up by multiple players.

HAN

Who did you bring with you?

While the others are pinned against the wall, Luke is brought violently toward the center of the dance floor. Now Jaina sees him, and so does Han.

HUTT PARTISAN I

Ta murderous Jedai master. Luke
Skywalker! An ta bantha fodder! Han
Solo!

Han is dragged from his seat, thus tipping over his barely sipped beverage, onto the dance floor, and is shoved to Luke's side. Jaina tries to prevent this, but Plagueis holds her back. Chewie reacts to hearing Han's name.

LUKE

(aghast)

Han!

HAN

(pejoratively)

Luke.

A bitter history is relived, one played out between the events of Endor and Han's "disappearance."

HUTT PARTISAN I

To the honor of the great Hutt family,
I offer these serpents' lives!

The executioner has a Weequay blaster-lance and points it at Luke's forehead, his finger on the trigger. But Luke summons his GREEN lightsaber from Carlo's satchel to break his bonds and dismember the underling's fingers.

He FORCE PUSHES several gang members and deflects lasers, grabbing a blaster and giving it to Han.

Carlo head-butts his captor and takes his gun, helping to free Chewie, who smashes two criminals' heads together.
THHHWAACCKK!!

Jaina swoops in with her BLUE lightsaber and Plagueis has his staff as the melee ensues. The cantina is vacated except for the heroes and Hutts. R2 stays away but stuns an unlucky hooligan in his way.

Upon seeing each other, LUKE is satisfied to see Jaina safe, but also perturbed she would disobey him. They both flash their sword, causing some to flee.

Chewie, angry and flustered, charges at Han and pins him down with his muscular grips. Han doesn't resist too much, permitting Chewie to vent.

HAN

Hey! Hey! Chewie. Take it easy!

He swats at a passing attacker and drops Han without a word. CARLO is amazed to witness his childhood hero, but CHEWIE had been mourning for a decade, and this is a nervy revelation.

Carlo, who glimpses Jaina, is just as entranced by her poise as he is glad to see her.

CARLO

(mutters)

Jaina.

The last of the opposition faces Plagueis, who dodges their blasts and hits them with his rod. At the sound of him firing at the ceiling, they scamper away.

But Plagueis is met by a GREEN lightsaber. His eyes turn gradually to it, but he already knows who holds it: LUKE SKYWALKER.

PLAGUEIS

I've been expecting this.

Luke feels the darkness that he found on Lothal and is

convinced Plagueis is a threat to Jaina.

Back where they have converged, Han fruitlessly approaches Chewie, who balks at him. Han turns ahead to Luke, fueled by unknown resentments.

Carlo is divided by his interest in meeting Han and learning more about Jaina's travels. Luke arrives with Plagueis, who is unrestrained.

LUKE

Jaina! Is this the man who took you here?

Plagueis is hopeful Jaina won't expose him, but she is not so generous.

JAINA

Yes. And I found this on him.
(gives lightsaber to Luke)
He said he was a Sith Lord.

Even the nescient C3PO reacts at the mention of "Sith Lord." They look upon Plagueis with fresh eyes.

LUKE

So you are the one from my visions?
The one who plans to end the Jedi?

PLAGUEIS

Master Jedi. I assure you, this is not as it seems. I've meant your Padawan no harm. I've long awaited our meeting.

LUKE

All Sith are alike. He's using you, Jaina, to destroy us or turn you against me.

PLAGUEIS

I brought her here to have what you denied her. To learn the truth about her father.

Only Luke and Han know the "truth."

JAINA

(to Luke)
What truth?

Han confronts Luke, right in his face.

HAN

So...you never *did* tell her, did you?
I suppose it wasn't convenient.

Discomfort builds in Luke. He didn't want it like this.

HAN (CONT'D)

The Yuuzhan Vong never made me their
slave. I left on purpose.

LUKE

We disagreed...

HAN

We disagreed on how to raise *my* kids!
But...Leia wanted them to be *Jedi*. And
I couldn't parent.

Jaina sees that her master, her uncle, the one she's been
devoted to, has lied to her for ten years.

LUKE

Jaina...

Before Luke can explain, the actual HUTTS storm in with
reinforcements! Their leader, ROTTA, is a slimy green slug
and son of Jabba the Hutt. Carlo sighs.

ROTTA

Ahh. Skee-wo-ka. Pili to kinan gobo
laki, da hana unko, gun Han Solo noah
pagsha.

TITLE: You must be prideful to barge into my home like this.
But not nearly as much as you, Han Solo.

HAN

Rotta. I paid you back, remember?
We're good!

ROTTA

Dah sa baisha gusha Jabba, to awa
choo!

TITLE: Nothing can pay back what you did to the mighty Jabba.
You will all die!

At this, Luke ignites his lightsaber, and Jaina does the
same. Han realizes that after all, Jaina *is* a Jedi.

But it is PLAGUEIS, who, with the Force, removes HIS lightsaber from Luke's side and flings it at the rafters above the Hutts. It crashes on top of them! PPPSSSSSHH!!!!

A plume of dust erupts. Blaster fire in all directions. Carlo opens a backdoor that has a blasted control panel.

CARLO

This way!

Han nods approvingly, which makes Carlo giddy. All but Jaina and Plagueis follow him, evading sporadic bombardments.

Plagueis is reluctant, lamenting his failure. But Jaina waits for him, and he suddenly has hope he may reach her. He retrieves his lightsaber from the rubble.

INT. - NAR SHADDAA - CANTINA CORRIDOR

On the sides, there are storage rooms and a wide kitchen. The cooks are erratic as pots and pans go flying.

Luke stops to look for Jaina as Carlo and Han go ahead. Chewie stops for a second but chooses to go with the others.

Jaina catches up to Luke with Plagueis in tow. Luke looks at him menacingly but chooses to keep running.

EXT. - NAR SHADDAA - DUROS SECTOR - STREET II - NIGHT

Han and Carlo go LEFT. Chewie, once out, sees them and follows.

C3PO and R2 are next. Luke, Jaina, and Plagueis after. Luke prompts them to go RIGHT, where the speeders actually are.

A gunman from behind the corner, whom Luke senses, shoots at Jaina, but Luke deters it with the Force, hitting the gunman instead. They run madly to slip from the Hutts' vengeful tentacles.

As they navigate the busy quarters, with all the scooters, snack carts, and cleaning droids, a sniper locks on them and misses. Plagueis fires back with his staff-rifle.

Once they reach the speeders, TWO malfunction. Jaina and Plagueis get on the working one.

LUKE

Lousy junk!

Reluctantly, Luke hops on. To make do, R2 opens two back-clamps for C3PO to attach to. The race to the starport begins.

C3PO
Ahhhhhhhh!

C3PO is lifted up via R2's rocket accessory.

C3PO (CONT'D)
This is so embarrassing.

EXT. - NAR SHADDAA - DUROS SECTOR - STREET III - NIGHT

Han, Carlo, and Chewie whiz past intersections, avoiding the raucous nightly festivities. They arrive in a square. But it's a dead end. Carlo yells into his com.

CARLO
Luke! Luke!

HAN
(to Chewie)
Thanks, buddy.

He turns to Carlo, a man to whom he hasn't been introduced.

HAN (CONT'D)
What was your name again?

CARLO
Carlo. Carlo Calrissian.

Han knew Lando had a son, but not one as bold as Carlo is. They shake hands. Carlo is the usual fanboy.

HAN
Well, Mr. Calrissian. You got a plan?

Carlo points to an unattended coach-bike. Han likes his thinking. Its owner spills his drink on himself as they leave.

EXT. - NAR SHADDAA - STARPORT - NIGHT

R2 arrives at the gate where the Blazing Spirit is, followed by Luke on the speeder. They cruise into the pitch-black expanse. Hutt troopers needlessly fire upwards.

INT. - BLAZING SPIRIT - HOLD AREA

The droids rejoin after an unusually long time apart, but C3PO is not so merry.

C3PO

I don't want to hear from your
seditious little processor.

Luke is bizarrely unfazed by it, which infuriates Jaina.

EXT. - NAR SHADDAA - CORELLIAN SECTOR - NIGHT

The clanker that Han, Carlo, and Chewie ride on reacts intensely to the high speeds. Carlo, the driver, finds it difficult to turn or slow down.

The techno-crazed hive is blinding with its infomercials and

HAN

You sure you can ride this thing?

CARLO

Not really.

He works it as nimbly as possible, but the junky land-ship attracts the local police. To get away from them, Carlo steers to reach a large cargo container. The patrol rushes past and doesn't notice them.

Crouching behind it, Han, Carlo, and Chewie spot the starport and those defending it.

CARLO

Where's Luke?

HAN

Not here.

Chewie utters something intelligible only to Han.

CARLO

What did he say?

HAN

We're gonna hotwire that freighter.
(Carlo objects)
Borrow it.

Without warning, Chewie starts toward the ship, with Han and then Carlo following him onto the tarmac.

With his crossbow, he strikes the two employees next to it. The ramp entrance is already open, suggesting the Hutts know it belongs to DAR YOON.

INT. - YOON'S FREIGHTER - COCKPIT

Han and Chewie finagle the wires under the control panel until the engine revs. They taste a moment of camaraderie that renews their epic friendship. Carlo is ecstatic as well but doesn't understand the significance of it.

EXT. - NAR SHADDAA - STARPORT - DAY

As they taxi, the wing clips an under-construction Hutt party barge and dislodges it from its anti-gravity stasis. Its ginormous skeleton crashes onto the dwarfs below. CRRASSSHH!!

A plethora of chaotic destruction diverts the workers and armed personnel from the escapees. They rise above the haze and zoom into hyperspace.

INT. - BLAZING SPIRIT - HOLD AREA

JAINA

We have to go back!

LUKE

Out of the question.

JAINA

But we have to...

LUKE

We can't. The Hutts will have greater numbers.

JAINA

Do you hate him?

A magnetic field forms over Plagueis, a sort of prison. Luke looks at him scoldingly.

PLAGUEIS

Is that necessary?

LUKE

(to Jaina)

We fought together in the Rebellion. But he changed. We didn't want you or Jacen to think...

JAINA

We?

Contrite but obstinate, Luke goes to fly the ship. Jaina stands in his way.

JAINA

Not without Jacen.

She realizes through his silence that he knows where he is.

LUKE

High Command thinks he's on Parnassos.
They intercepted a transmission...
from Coruscant. All this...worries me.

Remembering the adversity of his youth, an ironic smile colors Luke's face.

LUKE (CONT'D)

One day, you will make a great Jedi.
Better than I was. Threepio, set
course.

There is a heaviness in Luke, who has grown rigid and tired. Jaina is his heir and hope.

Plagueis reflects on this as well as Jacen's whereabouts as C3PO begrudgingly does Luke's bidding.

FADE IN:

INT. - DATHOMIR - MAUL'S PALACE - THRONE ROOM

JACEN has an audience with the terrifying MAUL and his Vong henchmen. His visage spooks even the astute and hardened knight. TALON, wife to this fiend, stands dotingly at his side.

Tanks of fluid connect to intravenous tubes. The quarters, with glass screens, expose the harsh environs of the planet, Maul's birthplace.

MAUL (CONT'D)

I sense your feelings. Young Jedi. You
seek your father.

JACEN

I am no Jedi. You will regret that.

Jacen looks for his GREEN lightsaber, which Maul has.

MAUL

As I suspected. The spirit of Anakin Skywalker is strong in you. Do you know why he turned? Lord Sidious, once my master, told him about the ultimate power of the dark side. Eternal life. With it, destiny is yours.

JACEN

Is that what this is about? The Syndicate? The Yuuzhan Vong are savages!

MAUL

Strength over weakness. It is the will of the Force. That is why I gave them passage and why they follow me.

JACEN

You had my men killed.

An overflow of hate in Jacen, fueled by his father.

MAUL

And perhaps you share their fate. Talon!

She jumps to action, drawing her blade. Jacen evades, then FORCE PULLS his GREEN lightsaber from Maul.

She throws a couple rapid heaves, but Jacen coils her back with a swiping motion. They meet saber to saber. But Talon loses her balance as Jacen tests her defenses.

Noting that she is preparing a final onslaught, Jacen allows her to charge as he PIERCES her from behind.

Writhing on the floor, Talon takes one last glance at her conniving husband.

MAUL (CONT'D)

Good. Good. Very good. The dark side is natural to you. It is in your blood. Luke Skywalker has not purged you of it yet.

Jacen circles him.

MAUL (CONT'D)

Even now, the thought of Han Solo dominates you. Such a shame it

is...how you were deceived.

JACEN

Deceived?

The hellish lord chuckles.

MAUL

Your father was never enslaved! That was a lie designed by Luke Skywalker to keep you a Jedi and limit your power. Because if you knew the truth, you would destroy him.

At this wild assertion, Jacen is more ready than ever to silence this perjurer.

JACEN

How could you know this?

MAUL

I've watched you your entire life, Jacen. *Search* your feelings. They are your greatest weapon. Guards!

The two sentinels don't touch him.

MAUL (CONT'D)

You are not my prisoner. Leave...if it's your wish. But stay and I will teach you *everything*.

Jacen storms out, disturbed about what Maul has offered. A baleful expression comes onto the elder Sith as Thrawn's emissary ventures in.

MAUL (CONT'D)

Lieutenant. Go to your Emperor. Tell him his mercenaries are ready. Begin the invasion.

CYDON

Yes, my Lord.

After Cydon leaves, Maul's wrist starts to jitter. He massages his scalp, weathered by the fatigue of age.

CUT TO:

INT. - BLAZING SPIRIT - HOLD AREA

Plagueis, who has a Force connection with Maul, can feel both his plotting and his pain.

Luke looks at a space chart to Parnassos, a place most do not tread.

PLAGUEIS

It's Hego. My name. Hego Damask. I was once a Sith Lord named Darth Plagueis. I was the Emperor's master.

Luke pictured Palpatine as an old man, so this is baffling.

LUKE

(curiously)

The Emperor was your apprentice?

PLAGUEIS

The dark side has granted me many lives. But it is more a curse.

Dismissing this, Luke his studies.

LUKE

There is no redemption for the Sith. You use the Force for evil.

PLAGUEIS

There was...once.

Luke thinks of Anakin and his sacrifice. *But how could Plagueis have been involved?*

PLAGUEIS (CONT'D)

I am forever tied to the legacy of Sidious. When I felt what your father had done, it gave me hope that I too could reject evil. And that brought me to Jaina...and to you.

A fluctuation causes the lights to flicker. Jaina, who has a tool belt, enters with R2D2, who has a torch.

JAINA

Master. I need your help refitting the power stabilizers.

PLAGUEIS

Jacen's not on Parnassos. A powerful Sith, the first student of Sidious, has him. Darth Maul will take him to his palace on Dathomir.

Part of him knows Plagueis is right, but his doubts override this instinct.

LUKE

We'll see.

FADE IN:

EXT. - LOTHAL - SLAVE COLONY - DAY

Droids oversee batches of valuable minerals from the mines, hauled by slaves, who wear yellow jumpsuits.

The piles are loaded onto trade ships. Pumps rock the earth to access the coveted prize.

Thrawn, the cruel dictator of this affair, has summoned his officers, representatives of SALAX' corporations, GOVERNOR MALAGAR, and the Yuuzhan Vong in ARBAQ and BUPOS.

THRAWN

Governor. I cannot thank you enough for your contributions.

MALAGAR

You are not the man of your word I once knew.

THRAWN

I promised peace. But for peace, there is compromise, Governor.

Head of Salax' Security Front, Max Battuta, is courteous to his newfound client.

MAX BATTUTA

Our corporation will gladly lend its services.

THRAWN

You will go to the arsenal on Hosnian Prime. Kill anything that moves. The Syndicate will commandeer the merchandise.

Now his servants, Arbaq and Buposo bow in reverence.

THRAWN (CONT'D)

By your Lord's command, you know what to do. Coruscant will fall.

(to MALAGAR)

I will not be complacent as the old Emperor was.

Once all them have left, Thrawn talks to his confidante from the beginning of the Empire, Overlord Terak.

TERAK

Na deti uttarid'o, Sen Qorih Emperor?

TITLE: What of the Rebels, Mighty Emperor?

THRAWN

No matter. Our Senate insider is quite *effective*.

WIPE RIGHT:

INT. - DANTOOINE BASE - DATA CENTER

General Antilles and Admiral Ackbar analyze metrics on the intact N.R fleet and an image of Parnassos. Other officers swarm about.

WEDGE

Preempting another attack should be a priority.

FOCUS ON: VAST INDUSTRIAL ENVIRONS, SMOKESTACKS, CONVEYORS

ACKBAR

We know little of Parnassos, General. It is too isolated. The protection zone is...

Lieutenant SUUN GERRERA injects himself among the two commanders as they deliberate.

SUUN GERRERA

General. There is an unregistered ship in orbit. Said he was...Carlo Calrissian.

WEDGE

Let him through.

Ackbar and Wedge are fearful. They have not spoken to Luke or his comrades in some time.

WIPE LEFT:

EXT. - DANTOOINE BASE - DAY

As the freighter touches down, N.R troopers line up, ready for any occurrence.

Carlo exits the ship. Wedge is motionless, still disappointed in him. But then, HAN and CHEWIE, side by side.

WEDGE

Han!!

They surround him like he's an apparition. Many thought he was dead.

Wedge can hardly believe it, especially given the story about Han's imprisonment.

HAN

I got lucky. Thanks to your captain.

Han keeps it vague to not expose Luke and spoil the happy occasion.

WEDGE

Well...come inside! Lieutenant,
contact the Chancellor *immediately* and
give General Solo our full
hospitality.

Taking kindly to the reception, Han converses with all his fans as they enter the main base. Wedge stays with Carlo.

WEDGE (CONT'D)

Captain.

Grateful, Carlo salutes.

WIPE IN:

INT. - DANTOOINE BASE - DATA CENTER

Han gets the lowdown on what's transpired recently, including the destruction caused by the Obliterator.

WEDGE

Thrawn is alive. He's allied with the

Syndicate in the Unknown Regions. What they'll do...is uncertain.

Han steps back into the role he once had but has a single reason for why he came back.

HAN
Where's my wife?

Before Wedge can answer, Lieutenant Gerrera rushes in with frightful news.

SUUN GERRERA
General. the comm link with the Chancellor has been jammed.

WEDGE
I want our best technicians at work.
If it's sabotage, we'll root it out.

Wedge thinks this may be Thrawn's doing but has no way to act yet. He turns to Han again.

WEDGE (CONT'D)
I have something to show you.

WIPE UP:

INT. - DANTOOINE BASE - HANGAR

Han and Chewie are led past the regular assortment of vehicles to what is buried in linen. It is the MILLENNIUM FALCON! Han returns to the ship he once proudly called his.

He looks to Chewie, then Wedge, in amazement.

WEDGE
Leia had it decommissioned, but it's as good as ever.

Pan up to show the Falcon in its magnificence.

FADE IN:

INT. - DATHOMIR - MAUL'S PALACE - THRONE ROOM

The cavernous yet tidy domain, home of the sadistic Maul, is teased by glimmers of moonlight. JACEN, wearing all black, stands idle with his GREEN lightsaber.

Maul strolls around him with his steel pipes for legs. His

throne is cartoonishly big.

MAUL

To achieve what is yours, you must master your emotions. Use them...with precision. Your anger...at me...use it.

Jacen tries to slash Maul. The latter restrains him in his teflon mitts. He talks into his ear.

MAUL (CONT'D)

Too fast. You're distracted!

Pushed away by the Force, Jacen regains his composure and hurls at Maul, who draws his double-bladed lightsaber. Jacen targets his vulnerable mechanics, but Maul guards himself well, disorienting Jacen with a saber-spin. The young combatant cogs it and disables one of the ends, placing his lightsaber at Maul's throat.

JACEN

What do you want with me?

MAUL

The treachery of Skywalker is a fact you can't ignore. He has held you back from your potential.

Maul moves away from Jacen's lightsaber.

JACEN

What potential? To be your slave?

He is now perched on his throne.

MAUL

I endowed Thrawn his dream of empire, with my mercenaries, for something very dear to me. But he is rash and prideful. He will fail. The galaxy needs a steady leader. That could be you.

Jacen, although hardly much of a Jedi, still refuses the dark side. But he is enticed by this proffer of dominion.

JACEN

I would never serve you, Maul.

MAUL
You misunderstand, Master Solo.
Eternal life is my only destiny! In
time, you will accept yours.

Maul is ferocious about this, as though he sees life like water in a desert, always needing replenishment. Jacen is drawn to Maul's vigor and the extent of this elusive power.

CUT TO:

EXT. - PARNASSOS - SPACE

The orb of petulant vapors and armored titanics, on the backdrop of the endless void.

Adjacently, Luke's ship exits hyperspace.

INT. - BLAZING SPIRIT - COCKPIT

The installation is seen through the front window.

JAINA
What is that?

LUKE
A base.

They are terrified by how grand it looks.

LUKE (CONT'D)
Damn it. No stealth.
(to JAINA)
Redirect power from the thrusters.

Jaina frantically pushes buttons, and energy in the whole ship flickers for a few seconds.

INT. - BLAZING SPIRIT - HOLD AREA

Due to this, PLAGUEIS can leave his electric dome prison. He looks up to what leads to the cockpit.

INT. - BLAZING SPIRIT - COCKPIT

JAINA
Did that work?

LUKE
Negative.

As he says this, Luke binds himself to JACEN through the Force.

INT. - DATHOMIR - MAUL'S PALACE - THRONE ROOM

FOCUS ON: JACEN, WHO ALSO SEES LUKE, ELICITING SURPRISE, ANGER, AND INDECISION

INT. - BLAZING SPIRIT - COCKPIT

At this encounter, Luke knows more of the dark sentiments swirling in his nephew. He examines them harder, reaching out yet again. First, nothing. Then...

INT. - DATHOMIR - MAUL'S PALACE - THRONE ROOM

FOCUS ON: MAUL, WHO WITH A SPITEFUL GRIN, GOADS LUKE TO SEEK HIM OUT

INT. - BLAZING SPIRIT - COCKPIT

Luke is disturbed by it. He has long been afraid of Jacen forsaking the Jedi, and this seems to prove it. C3PO is perplexed at Luke's daze.

EXT. - PARNASSOS - DAY?

Under the musk and mist, the Syndicate Empire grows itself. Miniatures of the Obliterator, supplements for the invasion, are lined up in rows.

FOCUS ON: EXTERIOR OF THE BASE COMMAND CENTER

INT. - PARNASSOS - COMMAND CENTER

A computer graphic of space is irritated. A Vong officer inquires about it, albeit shyly, to Overlord Hudzag.

VONG OFFICER II
Rayun, alum kira mashyatir.

TITLE: Sir, there was an abnormality on the spatial readings.

OVERLORD HUDZAG
Na? Ukeh ya!

TITLE: Well? Spit it out!

VONG OFFICER II
Shahel sauchta jave.

TITLE: It could be a small vessel.

OVERLORD HUDZAG
Bu theta. Khajideh ya.

TITLE: I don't care how small it is. Find it!

EXT. - PARNASSOS - DAY?

Probes with antennas squirt out toward the atmosphere.

They breach its density into the vacuum of space, beginning their initial screening.

INT. - BLAZING SPIRIT - COCKPIT

This action is seen on the sonar. Jaina goes to steer but can't, to her astonishment.

JAINA
Short circuit.

Sitting ducks. Plagueis, who was freed by the power surge, comes from behind.

PLAGUEIS
I might have an idea.

Without options, Luke decides to trust Plagueis, temporarily. Plagueis heads to the helm.

PLAGUEIS
Our power fluctuations were caused by
an ion storm.

Neither Luke nor Jaina knows why this matters.

PLAGUEIS (CONT'D)
It'll...confuse the probes.

As Plagueis turns the ship toward it, purple-ish lightning starts to hit the outer shell. C3PO's eye sockets flicker and R2 screams as his systems are agitated.

C3PO
Does this vagabond know what he's
doing?

LUKE
We'll see.

The intensity of the tempest eases as the ship slows.

EXT. - PARNASSOS - SPACE

Three of the probes don't voyage into the storm, but ONE does. It gets close to the ship.

INT. - BLAZING SPIRIT - COCKPIT

The sound of the probe reverberates over the cabin. Everyone holds their breath.

EXT. - PARNASSOS - SPACE

Even though the scanner is just above, the chemically induced mayhem is too much for it to handle. It flies away.

INT. - PARNASSOS - COMMAND CENTER

Vong Officer II doesn't find anything foreign on the probe's diagnostic.

VONG OFFICER II
Lamen, rayun.

TITLE: Nothing...sir.

His attention wasted, Commander Hunt exasperatedly walks away, his inferior humiliated.

INT. - BLAZING SPIRIT - COCKPIT

Plagueis is happy that his plan worked. He has earned the trust of Luke and Jaina, who realizes suddenly why they came.

LUKE
I didn't sense him. He wasn't there.

Jaina, who can't herself, is dispirited. Luke looks to Plagueis to explain the full situation.

PLAGUEIS
Jaina, I've felt, as you master has, that Jacen is in great peril. An old student of Sidious...Darth Maul...has revealed himself. He is as deadly as he is craven. And he has your brother.

JAINA
But Jacen can defeat him.

It is said more like a question.

PLAGUEIS

We need to save him, before it is too late.

WIPE LEFT:

INT. - DATHOMIR - MAUL'S PALACE - THRONE ROOM

Jacen is rattled by the deceit he sensed. As much as Maul is delighted.

MAUL

Luke Skywalker.

Despite this, Jacen projects assuredness.

JACEN

He's coming to free me.

MAUL

Free you? You know the truth. You are a threat to him. His faith in you is dead.

Suddenly, Maul's age is even more apparent. Jacen ponders on whether Luke would kill him, if to ransom the Jedi Order.

WIPE DOWN:

INT. - NEW REPUBLIC ARSENAL - ANTECHAMBER

The Arsenal, which contains arms for the New Republic, hovers in space.

Max Battuta, head of the Security Front paramilitary group, is met by Arsenal officials, who are flustered at this unscheduled rendezvous.

N.R OFFICER III

Mr. Battuta, I wasn't aware the contract had been finalized.

MAX BATTUTA

The contract was revised.

He snaps his fingers, and the men with Battuta shoot at the N.R officers, advancing past them. Behind them are Yuuzhan Vong troopers, who are far more ravenous in their killing.

INT. - NEW REPUBLIC ARSENAL - VAULTS

N.R OFFICER IV
Slaver scum! Ahh!!

The Syndicate blitzes, leaving a wake of severe carnage. Five at once. Three more sliced by bayonets. A cutting instrument is used to plunder the vaults.

Trapped between two Vong deployments, N.R Officer V relays a message to Coruscant.

N.R OFFICER V
Whoever hears this. The Syndicate has
attacked. Repeat. The Syndicate has
attacked.

He defies death by blasting at the Vong, who rush him. He is able to take some out, but dies for his valiance.

FOCUS ON: A BARBARIC VONG TROOPER, WHO GLARES AT HIS ENEMY

CUT TO:

INT. - CORUSCANT - CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

The Chancellor is in her solitude, joined only by Uri.

Aghast and horrified, Leia watches the clip sent by N.R Officer V.

N.R OFFICER V
Repeat. The Syndicate has attacked.

The Vong trooper, his murderer, is seen trekking over him. Leia is filled with sorrow at her inability to prevent this crisis.

Suddenly, Kai Fisk races in.

KAI FISK
Chancellor!

Leia waives her bodyguard off and stands up.

KAI FISK
It's Salax. He was just in the Senate.
He's called for your arrest. On
charges of sedition.

An arm pushes Kai Fisk aside. It is Senator Salax. Senators

and corporate ghouls too.

LEIA
Explain yourself, Senator! You have no right...

SALAX
I do, in fact. A majority of us have found that you've conspired with avowed Rebels. Your dereliction of duty has cost lives!

Uri distances herself from the Chancellor.

URI
I'm sorry, Leia.

SALAX
Take them away!

She is handed into Senate custody. She has words for her jailer.

LEIA
You lack integrity. I see that now, Senator Salax.

SENATOR VI
Chancellor Salax!

SALAX
I will lead this Republic into new eras of peace and profit. The Rebellion is over.

Salax has fulfilled his conquest.

WIPE RIGHT:

EXT. - DATHOMIR - SPACE

The "rancor planet," lush with the dark side, glows a blistering red. It is remote, and there are no signs of life.

INT. - BLAZING SPIRIT - COCKPIT

PLAGUEIS
Dathomir. Home of the Nightsister cult, at least until Maul made them his wives.

JAINA

Wives?

Jaina is disgusted at this insight into Maul's domineering, polygamous personality.

PLAGUEIS

Maul is a strange man, and a dangerous one.

LUKE

There aren't any defenses.

PLAGUEIS

Typical of him. He relies completely on his own might.

Luke gulps with angst, imagining the caliber of sorcerer Maul must be.

EXT. - DATHOMIR - FOREST - EARLY EVENING

A boulder with an even top gives them a nice spot. Forests of trees with hanging leaves, bulbous sacks of ?, and twisted branches lead to a dark skyscraper, the only edifice in the region, with a quad foundation. Light from the setting sun is absorbed. No animals. Course soil with boulders caked in. A few weird birds with long beaks fly overhead, the only trace of life.

Luke fixes his lightsaber to his waist and gives C3PO a bundle of bombs.

LUKE

Threepio, these are explosives. I'll set them off when it's time.

C3PO

But Master Luke...I've never...

LUKE

You'll be fine. Jaina, R2. Stay with the ship.

JAINA

But...

LUKE

I need to keep you safe.
(to PLAGUEIS)
We should get moving.

Luke shuffles out with Plagueis. R2 beeps as C3PO follows.

FADE TO:

INT. - CORUSCANT - CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

Operatives for Chancellor Salax are hacking into the mainframe of Coruscant's shield. Uri, who is being made to witness it, has pangs of tremendous guilt. They deplete the energy sources that feed it, and it shuts down.

SALAX

Is it done?

They nod in affirmation.

INT. - CORUSCANT - SHIELD GENERATOR

Workers at the plant where the shield is maintained are freaking out due to the calamity. All the stationary units report in.

CORUSCANT WORKER I

Backups!

CORUSCANT WORKER II

Sir, everything's down!

Obvious to them now, it's a hostile takeover. The OBLITERATOR's emergence from hyperspace only confirms it.

Sirens flash red as all available troops are shuffling.

EXT. - CORUSCANT - SPACE

The Obliterator's howitzers give off a sequence of blasts, though less compactly destructive than before, that immobilize the primary wave of X-wings.

Like ants going after a tarantula, the New Republic sends one and all to hopelessly pepper the Goliath, which is now puncturing wards of the city.

INT. - CORUSCANT - SENATE

The politicians currently in session are quaked by the magnitude and there is a stampede to get out.

But this is ceased by a cadre of Salax' men, loyal to Thrawn's empire, who have them sit down.

The Senate Chair, who was running the proceedings, knows them and their ties to Salax, a clear accomplice in this violent event.

CUT TO:

EXT. - DANTOOINE - SPACE

An Assault ship, a smaller replica of what's bludgeoning Coruscant, is there to greet the New Republic garrison, along with many Yorik-ets.

INT. - VONG ASSAULT SHIP - BRIDGE

Admiral Terak, perpetrator of the Lothal massacre, aspires to complete the job.

GOVERNOR MALAGAR, a de facto prisoner, is forced to gawk at the annihilation. Before Terak gives the order, he looks to the Governor, like he's somehow responsible for it.

TERAK
Javaneh nel musta.

TITLE: Fire when ready.

EXT. - DANTOOINE BASE - DAY

Ackbar is on the loudspeakers.

ACKBAR (V.O)
Secure the perimeter. Leaders to posts.

Gunners, infantrymen, and pilots hurry to where they got to be. Cannons, aimed at the Assault ship, are the first casualties. BBLLLLAAAAMMM!!!

Wedge coordinates the mobilization.

INT. - DANTOOINE BASE - HANGAR

Tons of ships gallop to the battlefield. Idle, Han and Chewie are in the MILLENNIUM FALCON, striving to boost the ignition.

HAN
I'm trying, Chewie. Just give it a...

It comes to life.

HAN (CONT'D)
What did I tell you?

The Falcon whooshes out, surpassing the others. Carlo, who just got there, is disappointed he couldn't be onboard. But he spies a U-wing with his name on it.

EXT. - DANTOOINE BASE - SKY

Han and Chewie cradle their baby like Yavin was yesterday.
BBBBBBBBBAAAAA!! SHHHWWOOOOOOOMM!!

A blend of Yorik-et fighters and Sniper-crafts rival them, but the Falcon wedges through them like butter.

INT. - MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT

HAN (CONT'D)
We got company.

CUT TO:

INT. - DATHOMIR - MAUL'S PALACE - ATRIUM

There is an unobstructed entryway that Luke and Plagueis have traversed. C3PO slowly moves off-screen, as he's setting the bombs.

They are led into an ornate court that has been poorly maintained. Gold candelabras. Not-so-sparkly chandeliers. Mirrors with decorated trim. Ripped wallpaper. Curved staircases, in the middle, lead up the tower that kisses the sky.

Clenching the banister, Luke ascends. Plagueis is nearby. The staircases end at a rotunda with red and gold wallpaper where the only way is forward.

INT. - DATHOMIR - MAUL'S PALACE - ROTUNDA

Fissured tile floors. A corridor rimmed by an arch. Luke is hesitant but soldiers in.

But once he is over, a stone panel boxes him in. Plagueis bangs on it and tries to move it with the Force but can't.

INT. - DATHOMIR - MAUL'S PALACE - THRONE ROOM

The carpeting is velvet and the walls more bourgeois. Luke scans for cameras, but all he can do is move on.

His lightsaber, shining GREEN, illuminates what is already brightened by electronic lights, up until a glass dome, where another corridor is perpendicular to this one.

MAUL (V.O)

Master Skywalker. You live up to your reputation. But surely, you are not here for me.

LUKE

Show yourself Maul!

Maul assumes Luke knows this on his own.

MAUL (V.O)

Your Jedi powers are more astute than I expected.

Luke quickly turns left as Maul displays himself in front of his throne.

LUKE

What have you done with Jacen?

MAUL

Done with him? Foolish Jedi. He is a formidable learner.

LUKE

He would never follow you.

This isn't said with authority.

MAUL

(boisterously)

You think I want to turn him against you? No. That, *you* have accomplished. No. What will soon be mine is far greater! The Force! So that I may live eternally!

LUKE

Legends. You speak of legends. Who is the fool?

Luke, a collector of texts, has heard of what Maul preaches.

MAUL

You are the last Jedi. When you are gone, no one can stop me.

LUKE
You're wrong.

Luke holds his lightsaber horizontally, parallel to his left arm, producing in Maul a wicked smile.

INT. - BLAZING SPIRIT - HOLD AREA

Jaina alternates in her judgment on whether to pursue her master, while R2 is certainly fine with not doing so.

With her lightsaber, she starts out, to R2's chagrin. Jaina can't conjure an excuse.

JAINA
Take care, R2.

Into the abyss. R2 scrams back into the ship due to rustling in the wild.

FADE TO:

EXT. - CORUSCANT - SENATE

The Obliterator hovers over, having eliminated the defensive capabilities of Coruscant. Columns of troopers approach the building.

INT. - CORUSCANT - SENATE

The petrified legislators are gathered, demanding to be released.

SENATOR IV
Where is Salax?

SENATOR VIII
We have rights!

Troopers reinforce Salax' crew holding the Senators.

INT. - CORUSCANT - JAIL

LEIA and KAI FISK wallow in confinement, listening to sounds of the hysteria.

A masked figure disarms the locking mechanism on the cell. It is revealed to be URI, whom Leia is not too pleased to see. But Kai Fisk swiftly goes to her.

URI

Leia. I was wrong. I see that now. I want to make it up to you.

LEIA

I have lost everything.

URI

He was not alone.

Uri tosses her a pistol and they make their dash.

EXT. - CORUSCANT - SENATE

As carriers full of troopers land, they cower behind a pillar.

But Kai Fisk is soon discovered, a gun pointed at his head. He surrenders to the stormtrooper, unbeknownst to Leia or Uri.

STORMTROOPER I

Hey. You're under arrest.

A firearm under her sleeve, Uri fires, startling Kai Fisk, and an unoccupied carrier becomes visible, which they flee to. They are noticed, and Kai Fisk takes Uri's blaster, and he's surprisingly good at shooting.

KAI FISK

Huh.

INT. - VONG CARRIER

URI

You know how to fly!

LEIA

Yes, I do, Uri.

Leia guides it up where the Yuuzhan Vong has staked its blockade.

EXT. - CORUSCANT - SPACE

But they go undetected, passing THRAWN'S PERSONAL SHUTTLE, which rages onto the stolen planet. Enter hyperspace.

EXT. - CORUSCANT - SENATE

Overlord Kaveh, with his troopers and officers, anticipates

Thrawn's arrival. The man of the hour steps out, with golden epaulettes and a flowing white cape. Haughty and imperious.

KAVEH

The major population centers have been cleared, my Lord.

THRAWN

Secure the Senators, Kaveh. And bring that Salax fellow to me.

INT. - CHANCELLOR OFFICE

Salax observes the destruction, somewhat distraught over it. But he has no time to brood, as Emperor Thrawn comes barreling in to take his seat.

SALAX

I delivered on what you asked.
Coruscant is yours.

Salax is pushed away and Thrawn sits down.

THRAWN

That you did, Senator. And what did I offer in compensation?

SALAX

Home rule of my planet Serenno.

THRAWN

For all the carnage you've wrought.
Such a low price.

At his direction, Salax is seized by Vong troopers.

THRAWN (CONT'D)

I apologize, but you must understand.
As emperor, I cannot be so careless
about my alliances, especially with
those so easily swayed.

SALAX

We had a deal! You...Ahh!!

Salax is taken to an indiscernible demise, the hypocrite's kicking and screaming heard throughout.

EXT. - DANTOOINE - SPACE

The Falcon nosedives on its quest to reach Terak.

From the turret, Chewie delivers shot after shot to maintain the Falcon's lead, but little progress.

INT. - U-WING

WEDGE (V.O)
Captain Calrissian, target the rear of
the main fuselage.

INT. - MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT

WEDGE (V.O)
General Solo, divert fighters from
Captain Calrissian's position.

Han's ready for some action.

EXT. - DANTOOINE - SPACE

The Falcon gets followed so Carlo can squeak by.

Carlo breaks through, but can't do much damage to the deflectors, so he cycles back.

INT. - DANTOOINE BASE - DATA CENTER

The Syndicate swarms above the base, as Wedge tries to keep his composure.

CARLO (V.O)
I need backup.

WEDGE
That'll be a while. Figure it out,
Calrissian.

Wedge looks at a diagram of all N.R bases. Dantooine is hailing them all.

WEDGE (CONT'D)
Please.

EXT. - DANTOOINE - SPACE

Carlo pulls away hurriedly as he is outnumbered, as does the Falcon, which gets hit as it swoops over Carlo.

A fuel valve on its back is popped.

INT. - MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT

Han concerns himself with the leakage, as his shop is rocked by all the explosions in the sky.

HAN

Easy! Come on! Chewie! How's it going,
Carlo?

INT. - U-WING

CARLO

Hangin' in there.

INT. - MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT

Han snickers. Chewie is heard fixing the problem.

There are sounds of gas being plugged. Crisis averted. Han is relieved and returns to work.

CUT TO:

INT. - DATHOMIR - MAUL'S PALACE - THRONE ROOM

Luke and Maul circle each other like competitors in the wild. Maul has his double-bladed lightsaber.

LUKE

This reign of yours is over, Maul.

MAUL

Overconfidence...will be your
downfall!

Maul charges into Luke, who slides to his right, but has to counter. Lightsabers make contact and push the two apart. Maul pulls in quickly and strikes across. His gait is stunted, sloppy.

With his enhanced bodily mechanics, Maul leaps again, but Luke can move aside. Maul kicks Luke over with his claw feet, which drops him. Pissed, Luke strikes Maul's torso. Maul pulls back and begins to spin his saber. Luke relaxes to get an opening, but Maul SPLITS his saber in two.

INT. - DATHOMIR - MAUL'S PALACE - ATRIUM

Jaina wanders through the opulence, BLUE lightsaber on. She is surprised at how such a place could exist in the middle of nowhere. But somewhere, in the dark, a voice.

JACEN

Sister.

Beholding her brother, she bolts over to embrace him.

JAINA

Brother! I thought you might've been killed.

JACEN

I'm alright, Jaina.

Jacen no longer looks like a traditional Jedi.

JAINA

You look different.

JACEN

I feel different. I have seen a great deal. You're the first I wanted to talk with. Our Uncle has been deceitful. He lied.

Jaina must admit that she has resentment too.

JAINA

I know.

JACEN

So you know the truth as I do. Our father didn't want this for us.

Jaina tries to be rational as Jacen gets heated.

JAINA

Our master. He was rebuilding the Jedi, it would've been cruel to tell us...

JACEN

He is not our master! Not anymore.

There is prolonged silence. Jacen turns away from her.

JAINA

But we found him, Jacen.

Jacen turns back, astounded that Han could have been found.

JACEN

How?

JAINA

It's hard to say. But it's true.

This is meant to be comforting, but it does the opposite.

JACEN

Why don't I feel him?

JAINA

He's not here.

Jacen wrestles with the darkness in his nature, the jealousy he feels towards Jaina, and the mission Maul has set him on.

JACEN

A lie it remains, one that Luke used to make me weak.

JAINA

Maul. He's told you this?

JACEN

He didn't have to. There is something more...for both of us. Are you with me?

He offers his hand, much like Plagueis did on Lothal, except for something more terrible. She hesitates but knows this is the only way to turn Jacen back.

JACEN (CONT'D)

Maul is weak. When all is done, I will destroy him.

FADE TO:

INT. - CORUSCANT - SENATE

Lifted into the apex, THRAWN looks down on all the Senators who have been funneled in. Vong troopers keep them quiet.

THRAWN

Senators of the New Republic. I am Grand Admiral Thrawn, soon to be Emperor Thrawn of the Yuuzhan Vong Empire. Long have I tolerated your corruption. Your stupidity. You think democracy is what will bring order and stability. I say that you and your supporters are the cause of the galaxy's suffering. Emperor Palpatine

was a visionary, but even he stank of corruption. The Yuuzhan Vong...are from another star...and though you call them criminals...they are liberators. Liberators from weakness...who will establish their dominion under me! For defying us, you will pay with your lives.

VONG OFFICER III
Javaneh!

SENATOR IX
Down with the Empire!! Ahhhhhh!

As he descends back into the holding office, the Senators are disposed of like stray dogs, one by one. Thrawn is unaffected by it, giddy even, as he assumes his new station.

INT. - DATHOMIR - MAUL'S PALACE - THRONE ROOM

Luke wobbles but regains his balance. Maul swipes at his knees, but Luke meets it each time. After Luke pulls back, Maul reconnects his lightsaber.

They lock blades. Maul is serene while Luke is furious, desperate to protect the New Jedi Order. This fury is to Maul's benefit, as his size bears down on the master.

Luke can exert less force on Maul's upper blade, so Maul brings up his lower one. Hot as the Sun, Luke halts it with the Force. But Maul counteracts, his eyes radiating.

He SEARS into Luke's shoulder. Smoke wafts from the wound as Luke collapses, ailing from the burn. His GREEN lightsaber falls, out of his reach.

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. - DANTOOINE - SPACE

In his U-Wing, Carlo dives near the assault craft, followed by Yorik-ets. He spins to avoid being sunk or hitting floating scrap.

INT. - U-WING

He spies the rear of the fuselage and, his hand on the necklace his father, Lando Calrissian, gave to him, he tears into it and pulls upward.

EXT. - DANTOOINE - SPACE

Rear weapons pop out from the U-wing, a hidden accessory to this otherwise unassuming ship.

INT. - U-WING

With his geolocator, Carlo pins down the Vong, who are in formation, and fires, disintegrating them.

CARLO

Woo!

INT. - MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT

HAN

Alright, kid. Don't get jumpy. Here comes the cavalry.

Han looks out as whirring sounds develop from the Vong ship.

INT. - U-WING

So does Carlo.

EXT. - DANTOOINE - SPACE

Not unlike TIE fighters, HAVOKS have semi-circle wings that are braced onto pylons, which connect to an oval center. About fifty of these evil things are being shunted, like bees from a hive, toward Han and Carlo.

Retreat appears the only option.

INT. - MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT

Han regards this to be penance. Chewie affirms that he's with him. Han starts to accelerate, but then...

BLUE LEADER

And here comes ours, General!

EXT. - DANTOOINE - SPACE

Lines of ships, X-wings, Marauder corvettes, Frigate Mark IIs, Dreadnaught heavy cruisers, and MC80 star cruisers, property of the Rebellion now part of the New Republic fleet.

Blue Leader is shown leading his team of X-wings, who are the vanguard into battle versus the HAVOKS.

They smash into one another, some blowing up on impact. Both the Falcon and Carlo have been added to the New Republic's side.

INT. - VONG ASSAULT SHIP - BRIDGE

Terak, once boastful, is disconcerted at how the tides have turned. Malagar can't hide his glee, whom Terak looks at harshly for his insolence.

INT. - MC80 STAR CRUISER I - BRIDGE

On a hologram, Ackbar steels them for the trials ahead.

ACKBAR (V.O)
Citizens of the New Republic. The
Yuuzhan Vong are perpetrating war
against our galaxy...

INT. - FRIGATE MARK II - BRIDGE

ACKBAR (V.O, CONT'D)
It is our charge to defend it. As we
did against the tyranny of the Empire,
so shall we today...

INT. - MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT

ACKBAR (V.O, CONT'D)
May the Force be with us.

EXT. - DANTOOINE - SPACE

The N.R calculates its barrage on the principal ship, which is closely guarded by the HAVOKs. The Falcon and Carlo in his U-wing are with the regrouped Blue team.

INT. - BLUE LEADER X-WING

BLUE LEADER
This is Blue Leader, standing by to
commence attack.

INT. - MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT

HAN
We're with you.

INT. - MILLENNIUM FALCON - LASER CANNON

Chewie bellows in agreement.

EXT. - DANTOOINE - SPACE

Carlo brushes through with ease, tossing left to right. But a Vong trooper, in a space suit, is dropped onto his wing.

Swerving doesn't work, and the trooper is advancing on him. He activates an electrocutor, which prongs the aggressor.

The Falcon has gotten the closest to the Assault ship, providing a lane for Blue team to test the deflectors.
BBLAAAMMM!!! BLMAAAAMMM!!

Han drives upwards to allow Chewie a bird's eye view of oncoming fighters.

INT. - MILLENNIUM FALCON - LASER CANNON

Like a gunslinger, Chewie takes two impeccable shots that make it clear for more X-wings to occupy the space above the Assault ship. He hasn't had this much fun for years!

INT. - MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT

Han, nostalgic for the Rebellion, is charmed to be among those he loves fighting for freedom, but this makes him ashamed for how he abandoned it. He thinks of his children, his family, and how they were hurt.

EXT. - DATHOMIR - FOREST - EARLY EVENING

C3PO, having distributed the bombs, finds a paranoid R2.

C3PO

What are you doing out here, R2?
Tempting fate?

The beeps disclose the reason for R2's displeasure.

C3PO (CONT'D)

Miss Solo? Master Luke told her
explicitly to...

She did it anyway.

C3PO (CONT'D)

Oh, no.

The protocol droid looks out at the ghostly woods and the castle. Jaina is not on Ossus anymore.

CUT TO:

INT. - DATHOMIR - MAUL'S PALACE - THRONE ROOM

The infernal minister of evil scowls at the man in agony by his doing. Luke had only fought one Sith before, his father, and never had he faced such fierceness. His murder seems inevitable to him. He consents to entry into the Force.

But an execrable sight instead. Jacen, in black, bringing JAINA, by the hand. He has partly acquiesced to Jacen's darkness. He is its architect.

LUKE
(softly)
Jaina.

Jaina is disgusted and appalled at the deformed creature, separating from Jacen, who is now between Luke and Maul.

Luke understands Jacen's feelings, and vice versa.

MAUL
Mmmmmmm. The sister. This was
unexpected.

Luke toils to pick himself up onto his knees. He looks up at Jacen, like prey to its predator.

LUKE
Ja...Jacen.

JAINA
Master.

This exclamation informs Luke something about Jacen's character that Jaina sees.

LUKE
This Sith Lord is the darkness I have
foreseen. He has taken advantage of
you.

JACEN
And you are innocent of that? Is my
mother and father?

Luke stands, bearing his faults.

LUKE
No. But you belong with us. Not him!

JACEN

I gave everything to you. The Jedi.
But all you did was hide the truth.

There is scorn but also melancholy.

LUKE

So you could have peace. Your father
left you!

JACEN

(vehemently)

Because of you! But I am more than
what you've become...So will she. We
will be more powerful than the Jedi
ever were.

He turns to Jaina, who is too uncomfortable to reply.

LUKE

I saw the dark side in you, from when
you were little. I thought I could
drive it out of you. But I see, it is
part of your true self.

JACEN

Lothal...The scout team. You renounced
me!!

At this, he FORCE PUSHES Luke, but the gesture is returned.
Luke, with the glimmer of hope for saving his nephew gone
from him, severs ties with the broken soul.

LUKE

Yes. You are no Jedi to me. You never
were. Jaina is the Chosen One. Her
heart is pure!

Contorted by all sorts of emotions, Maul quells him, speaking
as if knowing his internal thoughts, those about malice and
greed, which he had suppressed.

MAUL

Jacen. You know what you must do.

Unshackled by familial piety, Jacen is able to consider the
unconscionable. Violence against his former master. But there
is conflict, the same that is in Luke, which keeps them from
going toe-to-toe. But Luke falls to his knees, Force-choked.

CUT TO:

EXT. - DANTOOINE - SPACE

Unencumbered, Carlo does another fly-by, wreaking serious harm. The N.R fleet has taken control, and the few Vong ships in the field are stranded.

Like a rotting corpse, the Assault ship is shell of its previous glory. An insult in Yuuzhan Vong tradition, one levied at Terak.

INT. - VONG ASSAULT SHIP - BRIDGE

The overlord is mortified but duty-bound to press on.

TERAK
Dasheh chathar HAVOK'o!

TITLE: Deploy more HAVOKs!

VONG SHIPMAN II
Bu shah, Rayun. Si dag lamem.

TITLE: We can't, sir. We have none.

Looking at the Governor POW, Terak sees a hostage, or at least a punching bag.

Malagar knows he's a dead man, so he surveys the bridge for any means to disrupt them.

INT. - U-WING

CARLO
Their deflectors are down. Star
cruisers, you'll knock 'em out.

Captain Nadan of MC80 Star Cruiser I, or "The Beast Silan," eagerly takes up the mantle.

NADAN (V.O)
Copy that, Captain Calrissian!

EXT. - DANTOOINE - SPACE

Everyone pulls back to where the star cruisers are.

INT. - VONG ASSAULT SHIP - BRIDGE

There is tumult as the deflector sensors indicate the worst

possible situation. The crew makes for their departure.

Terak is in denial.

TERAK

Karhar roba! Karhar roba!

TITLE: Damage report!

A stray blaster is picked up by the Governor. As Terak barks and wavers, Malagar aims at his head.

MALAGAR

Long live the Republic!

Terak is killed, and Malagar destroys some of the ship's circuitry before being executed. But the Vong have no time to celebrate, as the bridge is reduced to particles!

EXT. - DANTOOINE - SPACE

In short order, the Yuuzhan Vong are evaporated from space, like embers in the dark, by a consistent volley of lasers from the star cruisers.

WIPE RIGHT:

EXT. - DANTOOINE BASE - DAY

Carlo is revered as the hero. Out of his most grandiose fantasies, Han Solo is the first to acknowledge him. In turn, Han is also lauded for his resurrection.

Wedge approaches them with a convoy of bureaucrats and senators, including URI and KAI FISK.

WEDGE

Han. There's someone here to see you.

From his right flank comes LEIA with her tattered Chancellor's clothes and weary eyes. She tucks herself into her husband, the news on which she could scarcely believe. But they do not kiss or act otherwise physically intimate, as remembrance of the past seeps in.

LEIA

You came back.

HAN

Jaina found me. Where's Luke?

LEIA
Out to help our son. He's in danger.

HAN
(mumbled)
I should've stayed.

Leia almost nods, lowering her eyes sorrowfully. She then turns to Chewie, who is joyful to see the Princess again. There is mass indulgence and satisfaction among the New Republic officers, but the reality is less rosy.

WEDGE
It is not safe on Dantooine. We must relocate.

LEIA
My house on Naboo has a compound that can fit you all. What's left of the Senate can convene there as well.

WEDGE
It's good to have you with us again.

Leia wants to say it is, but it truly isn't. Coruscant has been desecrated.

WEDGE
Prepare your ships!

As Leia shmoozes to the others, Han can only think about his son, where he may be, who has him, and the kind of man he's turned into since he fled.

WIPE RIGHT:

INT. - DATHOMIR - MAUL'S PALACE - THRONE ROOM

Luke is weaponless. Jacen is torn on whether to strike at him, but the dark side beckons him to his lightsaber, which he removes from his holster.

Jaina, though she has her lightsaber, isn't bold enough. She fidgets nervously.

But likewise, Maul contracts his aching palm and massages his forehead. A brief annoyance switches to acute. He rolls out of his throne like he's having a seizure, moaning and twitching in profound distress.

These are symptoms Maul has had before, but they have slipped

him into madness. He looks up to see its origin. PLAGUEIS.

As he barges into the light, Maul feels more pain from his presence, like there's a virus emanating from him. He shies away like a frightened babe. Jacen doesn't know what to think about this obscure fellow.

LUKE

Hego.

Plagueis, free of fear, barks at Maul like he has the bite too. Maul has never seen a person with such conviction.

PLAGUEIS

Darth Maul! Son of Talzin! Do you remember me?!

An inflection, or maybe his body language, give his identity away to Maul, but he rejects it.

MAUL

No! No! Darth Plagueis is dead!
Impossible.

PLAGUEIS

Unnatural. But not impossible.

That phrase echoes the same one spoken by Palpatine to Anakin, one that Maul knows too, confirming that it is, in fact, Plagueis in the flesh. Maul, thirsty for advances in dark side magic, bears its magnum opus.

MAUL

Ha! Eternal life! The dark side! I could not...I have not...But you are here now, Lord Plagueis.

Maul placates the once great Sith master, but he doesn't pay his due respects. Maul is out for himself.

PLAGUEIS

Jacen. I know you, but you don't know me.

JACEN

I do.

Jacen speaks from his subconscious, revealing the interplay of the forces of good and evil in his mind.

PLAGUEIS

Then you must know...I have once been
where you are. The hate. The desire to
wield it. But it leads nowhere. Only
to suffering.

This transformation in Plagueis is even harder for Maul to
reconcile. He thinks it's a trick.

MAUL

NO! What is this?! You are the Lord of
the Sith!

PLAGUEIS

I was, a long time ago.
(looks to JAINA, then JACEN, then
MAUL)
But the Force is with me. I am a Sith
no more.

That proclamation shatters Maul's facade of invincibility.
But Jacen is unsure how to proceed. Luke STILL betrayed him.

PLAGUEIS (CONT'D)

Jacen. You don't have to do this.

The vitriol in Jacen dims. He puts his lightsaber back, while
Luke privately FORCE PULLS his, knowing this is his
opportunity. Jaina, who sees this and no one else, dreads
what's to come.

In his moment of weakness, Maul could not repel a lightsaber
swing. But Luke must be nimble. He SPRINTS with his hind legs
like a marathon runner while IGNITING his GREEN lightsaber.

The Jedi master lunges so that he stands above the crippled
Sith, ready to inflict the death blow. But JACEN draws his
GREEN lightsaber and blocks him sideways. The stalemate is
held for some seconds until LUKE disengages to get around
him, but this proves futile as Jacen retaliates. Luke steps
away but Jacen, in a blink, plunges his sword into him.

The skewer in his stomach, Luke is stiff with shock. Even
Jacen, who acted on instinct, has confusion, then remorse.
Maul's tenor brightens as Luke lies slain, his lightsaber
skipping to Plagueis.

JAINA

Noooooooooooo!

Maul is in hysterics as Jacen digests what he's done. Tears

dripping from her face, Jaina runs to Luke. Plagueis, sole hope for Jaina and the Jedi, HURLS Jacen against the wall with the Force, knocking him out.

Now perched on his throne, Maul reaches for his lightsaber. But Plagueis projects FORCE LIGHTNING, with power and velocity greater than any Sith, onto Maul, causing him to fall backwards. The throne EXPLODES into chunks of rock. But the quaking continues well after, all over the palace. BLLLLAAAMMM!!! BLLLLAAAMMM!!!

LUKE
Jain...Jaina. Go.

She finds the button for the bombs in his coat, already activated. They have to leave. With every ounce of strength drawn from the Force, Jaina lifts him up.

Maul, recovered from the blast, defiantly shows his weapon at Plagueis, the only thing between him and the Jedi. Though he feels for his RED lightsaber, he chooses Luke's. Jaina trots out with Luke hunched over her shoulder.

MAUL
Being dead has made you senseless, old man.

Plagueis turns to fight Maul, who utilizes his dexterity to launch a frenzy with both of his rods, creating blurs of red and green. The former Sith dances around the room, jumping on furniture and into the air to prod him, and it's clear where Sidious learned his style. Maul stomps at him, but this causes him to LOSE one of his legs.

His lightsaber exposed, Plagueis chops it in HALF, fizzling it out. Kyber sparks fly. Maul crawls like an injured insect, wailing as he goes. Plagueis can do what Luke couldn't, and he is enticed to do so.

As Maul peers at him, a familiar feminine voice calls out to Plagueis. The razing continues.

LUMA
Hego.

It is HIS WIFE. He is stopped in his tracks. Is it mental?

LUMA (CONT'D)
Save them, Hego. Save them.

He retracts his lightsaber, and suddenly he can see how the

palace is being demolished. He chases Jaina and Luke, leaving Maul alone with a comatose JACEN. Maul is stunned that he was spared by him.

The destruction causes the floor to form a crevice. Like a spider, Maul holds Jacen's limp body and charts his escape, one of his limbs a stub.

EXT. - DATHOMIR - FOREST - EARLY EVENING

Exhausted, Luke loses his footing, even as Jaina labors to carry him to the ship. She leans him onto a stump.

LUKE

Jaina...I can't. You must promise me.

JAINA

No. No. You have to live. Come on.

He tilts his head, succumbing to his wounds. But Jaina won't have it. She cradles him, jostling to keep him awake.

LUKE

It's ok. The Force awaits.

PLAGUEIS

The Force is not done with you yet,
Skywalker.

Plagueis stands at Jaina's top left, facing Luke, who isn't sure what he said is true. Together, they hoist him up.

WIPE DOWN:

INT. - BLAZING SPIRIT - HOLD AREA

The three come bursting in. Luke has his bloodied hand over the hole in his midsection. He is laid onto a fold-up bed with white cushions and a heart monitor that's strapped onto him.

JAINA

Threepio! The medkit!

C3PO

Yes. Yes. Oh, dear, what has happened?

He hands her a box, from which she takes an auto-tourniquet. R2 beeps tensely.

C3PO (CONT'D)

Medical assistance is not one of the
proficiencies in my programming, Miss
Solo. I...

Plagueis waves at him to shut up, which he does. Jaina isn't
in the mood.

JAINA

You're going to be fine.

LUKE

(under his breath)

For...forgive him.

She pretends she didn't hear him as she secures the devices
and infuses a substance into his arm. His skin, once fading,
returns to its natural color.

CUT TO:

EXT. - NABOO RESIDENCE - BALCONY - DAY

Overlooking the vibrant slopes and waterfalls of her mother's
home world, Leia looks more like a civilian than a
politician. Her appearance is simple yet dignified as she
basks in the tranquility of her exile. Within the house is a
salon full of patrons, senators and generals.

A horrible sensation fills her chest, and she clings to the
railing, gasping for air. Luckily, Han is there to console
her. He is much better groomed and had his smuggler clothes
ironed.

HAN

What is it?

LEIA

Luke. It's Luke.

Han can't tap into her clairvoyance, but he's still concerned
as he helps her up and into the foyer.

FADE TO:

EXT. - DATHOMIR - SCIMITAR KEEP - NIGHT

The Scimitar, Maul's imposing vessel, is docked a few miles
away from the palace. It sports folded wings and ion engine
radiators. The interior height is over two persons tall and
wide and twelve times in length.

Still not awake, JACEN is transported into the ship. Maul powers it up and takes off. The palace, the seat of his majesty on this dark world, crumbles into pieces.

INT. - SCIMITAR

In his capsule, Maul communes with OVERLORD KAVEH, plump with rage from the embarrassment of his defeat.

KAVEH
Coruscant'gharoak prat, Sen Ucham
Rayun. Thrawn sos Likari, hama yatush.

TITLE: The invasion of Coruscant is done, my Lord. Thrawn is Emperor, as you commanded.

MAUL
Zahuk sa nikk chari. Dag kiga varith.

TITLE: He will rule as long as I will it. I have a worthy successor.

Maul turns off the hologram and prepares to jump into hyperspace, sanguine that he has the Jedi traitor.

EXT. - DATHOMIR - SPACE

The Scimitar, now well beyond Dathomir, stares into the starless void and jumps into hyperspace. Not to be seen until the next episode.

FADE TO:

EXT. - NABOO RESIDENCE - LANDING AREA

Beside Leia's mansion, the Blazing Spirit unloads LUKE, lying in his bed, as servants and medical droids hasten him in.

WIPE UP:

INT. - NABOO RESIDENCE - HOSPITAL ROOM

Praying to the Force for guidance, JAINA sits at his bedside, contemplating what darkness could have infected her brother and how Luke would pull out of this.

MEDICAL DROID
His vitals are stable. No organs were
penetrated.

Did Jacen intend this? Is there good in him?

Luke awakens to find Jaina stooped over him, which assuages his pain. He calls her to come closer.

LUKE

You must forgive him. Only then are you shielded from the dark side.

JAINA

I don't think I can, but I'll try.

In a flash, Luke remembers Dagobah and Yoda's dictums.

LUKE

Hego will finish your training. You will be a Jedi.

She is swept by Luke's confidence in her. But that pales to how she feels when her parents, LEIA and HAN come to visit. Jaina had dreamt of their reunion since she was a child, and it overwhelms her.

HAN

Hey, kiddo.

After some tender re-endearment, the attention turns to LUKE as Jaina pays her final glance.

LUKE

You look better than before. You shaved.

HAN

Hey, wish I could say the same.

Luke and Han crack their first smile in years. But when Luke looks to Leia, her face begging to know what became of Jacen, he darkens and inhales sharply.

LUKE

I'm sorry.

HAN

Me too.

The transgressions of the past are absolved, and their old bonds are rekindled. Their more cheerful youthful selves shine through, as they did as rebels. But there is a gloom that persists. They are older and a new war is dawning.

Luke is given some quality company as he begins the process of recovery.

EXT. - NABOO RESIDENCE - BALCONY - NIGHT

Looking out to the sunset splattering onto the streams and lakes, the moon against the saffron skies, and the yellow-green grassy mountains falling slowly into a pitch-black silhouette, JAINA deciphers her future. She's tightened her bun and has a brown Jedi tunic. The same music plays from when Luke went away from home, as this is exactly how she feels. Ossus. The Temple. Jacen. Nothing is as it was. And now she must mature for the sake of the Jedi and her own. Her fear, her hate, and yes, her love will test her, if she is the Jedi she was made to be.

Above her, on another balustrade, is CARLO CALRISSIAN, the suave captain and redeemed hero of the New Republic. Cue the tune from Leia and Han's kiss on Endor. He is in her future. They stare affectionately at one another amid the sudden howl of the wind and the oranges of dusk.

A new order has begun.

THE END

APPENDIX

DAR YOON: The chosen name that Hego Damask, or Darth Plagueis, took to conceal his identity after he was regenerated into a clone body through dark force magic. His main objective was to preserve the Jedi during and after the rule of his apprentice, Darth Sidious, in order to be redeemed of his sins as a Sith Lord. "Dar" can mean "mountain" in Hebrew and "Yoon" is Korean for "allowing."

DATHOMIR PALACE: Unable to access the same powers that Plagueis did, Maul was still able to stay alive with the help of advanced medical technology. He spent his later years leading the Yuuzhan Vong. This was ultimately meant to destabilize the galaxy and bring his enemy into the light.

HAN SOLO: Disapproving of how his children were being trained as Jedi, Han Solo and Luke Skywalker broke off. However, they agreed that neither Jacen nor Jaina should know about it. Luke created the lie that Han was captured by the Yuuzhan Vong. This gave Jacen the drive to become a fierce warrior. Han hid as a barfly on Nar Shaddaa, escaping detection because no one was looking at non-Vong systems.

NEW REPUBLIC: Formed at the Galactic Concordance of 5 ABY (After Battle of Yavin), the New Republic was immediately plagued by disarray in its governmental structure. The first ten years of its existence were overseen by Chancellor Mon Mothma, who was impeached by the Senate in 15 ABY on corruption charges. Leia Organa, a figure who stood for welfare programs and implementing former Rebels into the defense forces, was Chancellor from 15 ABY until the New Republic's dissolution in 20 ABY.

NEW JEDI ORDER: Luke Skywalker scoured every region for force sensitive children but was unsuccessful. He was left to train his nephew and niece, who inherited midi-chlorians from their mother, Leia. The temple was established on Ossus, a remote jungle planet. The location of this compound was known only to the "Circle of Trust," including Jaina Solo, Jacen Solo, Leia Organa, Chewbacca, C3PO, R2D2, Lando Calrissian, and Han Solo.

YUUZHAN VONG: Originally a tribe of zealots and nomads, this extragalactic species was introduced to the galaxy by Darth Maul. Maul was regarded as a messiah and leader, who turned them into an elite smuggling and slave-running business. They warred with the New Republic mostly in the Outer Rim until Thrawn, whose rule over the Yuuzhan Vong Galactic Empire was directed by Maul, ordered the invasion of Coruscant.

CAST

Luke Skywalker - **Mark Hamill**
Han Solo - **Harrison Ford**
Jacen Solo - **Richard Madden**
Jaina Solo - **Billie Lourd**
Chancellor Leia Organa - **Carrie Fisher**
Carlo Calrissian - **John David Washington**
Dar Yoon - **Ian McKellen**
Darth Maul - **Peter Serafinowicz**
Grand Admiral Thrawn - **Hugo Weaving**
Chewbacca - **Peter Mayhew**
C3PO - **Anthony Daniels**
General Wedge Antilles - **Denis Lawson**
Admiral Ackbar - **Tom Kane**
Senator Salax - **Jeremy Irons**
Senator Kai Fisk - **Al Pacino**
Uri - **Jada Pinkett Smith**
Lady Talon - **Katie McGrath**
Lady Fang - **Jessica Alba**